

AKIRA

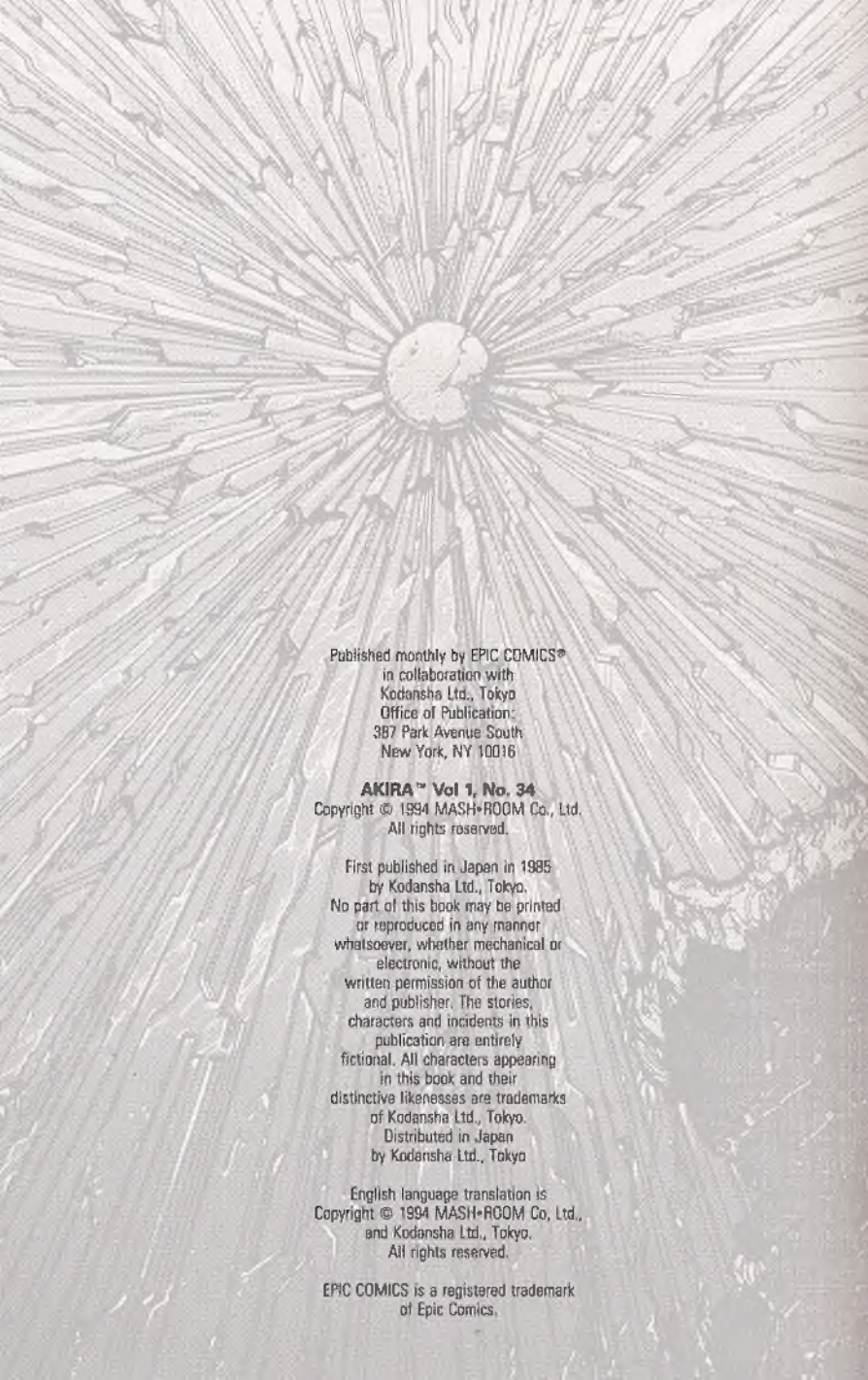
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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 34

PHANTOM VOICES

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, onetime leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization—led by a man known only as the **Colonel**—and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman named **Chiyoko**.

The **Colonel** had a number of psychic children under his control. Each was identified by a number tattooed on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**—Numbers 25 and 27. The blind **Lady Miyako**—Number 19—was once among their ranks but now heads a great religious cult. Number 41 is **Tet-**

suo, once Kaneda's friend but now his greatest enemy. **Tet-suo** lost his left arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite SOL, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate for himself a prosthetic replacement.

Most powerful of all the children is Number 28—**Akira**—a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost 40 years ago, after his mental blast started the Third World War. **Akira** was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Japan now exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable "caretaker robots" patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Empire** is formed—a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, healing the sick, wielding control of the faithful, and organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the East, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is



Kaneda



The Colonel



Lady Miyako



Joker



aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies of commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces. A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon—which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists—**Stanley Simmons**—goes ashore without military authorization, hoping desperately to implement a secret plan.

Meanwhile **Lady Miyako**, **Masaru** and **Kiyoko** convince **Kay** to join them in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project

their powers and strike as one.

Kaneda, who's teamed up with **Kai** and **Joker**—a friend and a rival from his gang days—vows to kill **Tetsuo** himself rather than let **Kay** face such danger. He, **Kai** and **Joker** launch an assault against **Tetsuo**, using most of their men, as well as such state-of-the-art weapons as they've salvaged, including laser rifles, flying platforms, and one caretaker robot. At the Olympic Stadium, they find destruction and chaos. Their enemy is already under attack by **Kay**, the outside forces, and even disloyal subjects of his own empire.

In battle, **Tetsuo** loses control, and his artificial arm assumes a grossly mutated form. He runs amok, killing anyone who comes too close. His power has grown beyond what his body can contain and is now trying to absorb its



Kiyoko



Masaru



Kay



Lt. Yamada



surroundings. His body begins to alternate between a normal human form and an immense, uncontrollable, bloated grotesquerie.

Kaori, the girl **Tetsuo** loves, is murdered by traitors. While **Tetsuo** is mourning her, he and his followers are attacked by the armed infiltrators. **Tetsuo's** supporters die horribly, while **Akira** looks placidly on. **Tetsuo**, shot by the biochem weapons, is enraged, and his enemies, too, die a hideous death.

Ironically, the germs in the weapons affect **Tetsuo** like a drug, enabling him to reassert mastery over his powers. A duel in the stadium ensues, with **Kay** and **Kaneda** using lasers and telekinesis against him. The fight goes on and on, with the advantage shifting time and again. **Kaneda** sends **Kai** to safety with **Akira**, and **Kai** hands the boy over to

another gang member, hoping to find **Joker** and return to the fray.

Then, the international fleet in the harbor sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo** causing chaos among all the combatants. **Akira** slips away from his guardians and rejoins **Kaneda** in the stadium, saying that he's been called by a power from above. The power is an orbiting laser cannon which the admiral of the fleet has ordered fired at the stadium. The laser pauses to recharge just before firing at **Tetsuo**, and **Tetsuo** transports himself to space, seizing control of the weapon.

Before the ships can be evacuated, **Tetsuo** fires the cannon at the fleet. For a finale, he brings the entire satellite crashing down upon the bridge of the flagship where the admiral commands.



Chiyoko



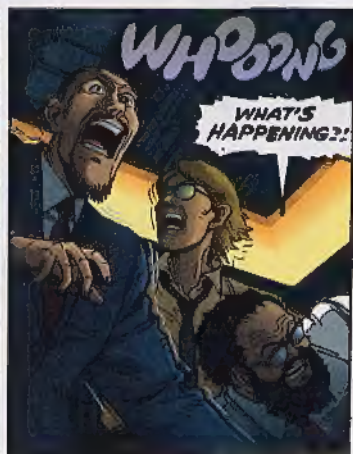
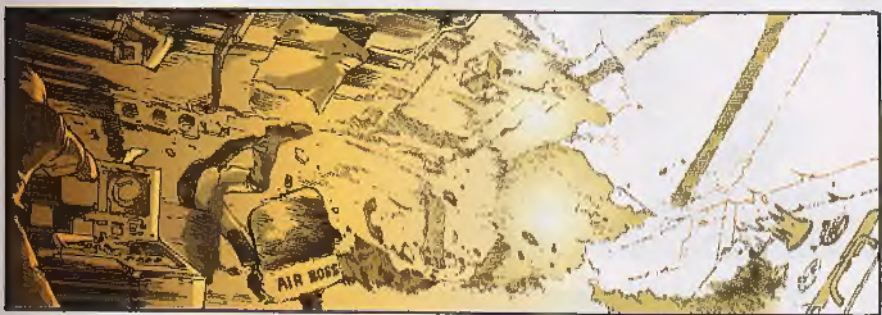
Tetsuo

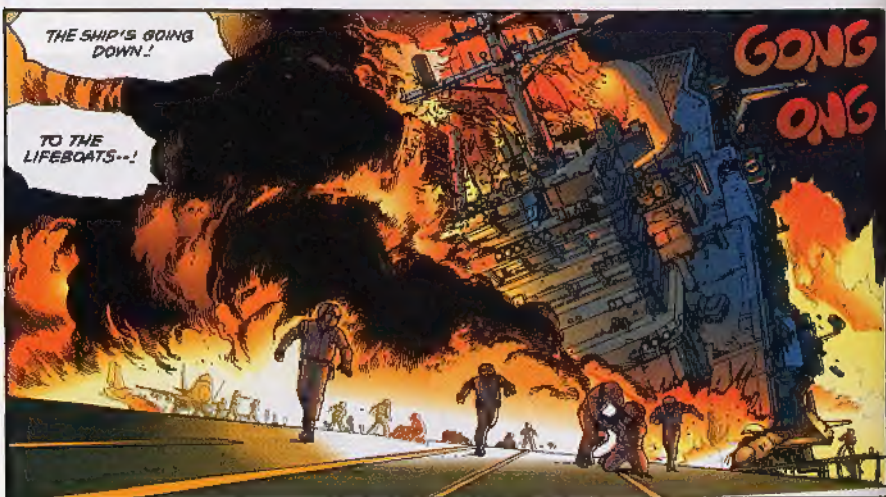
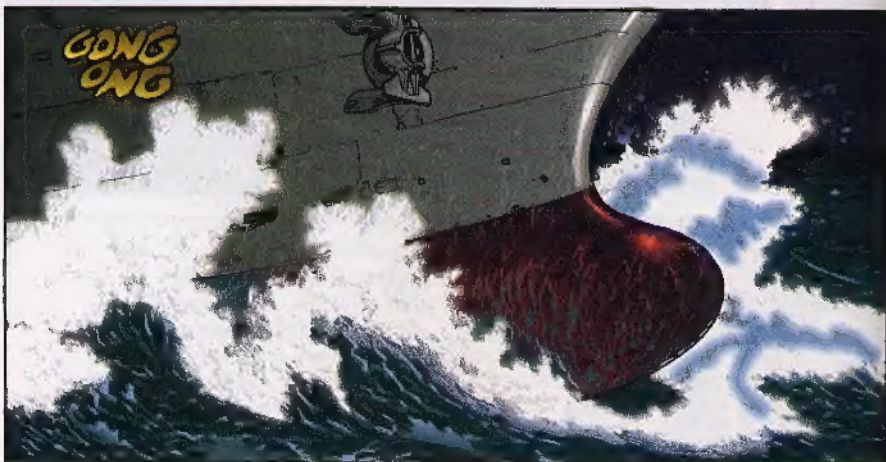


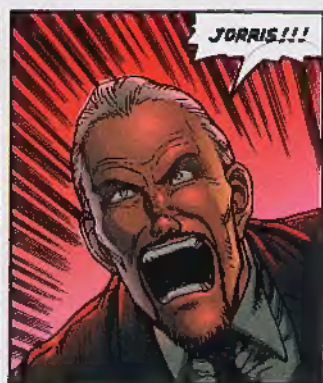
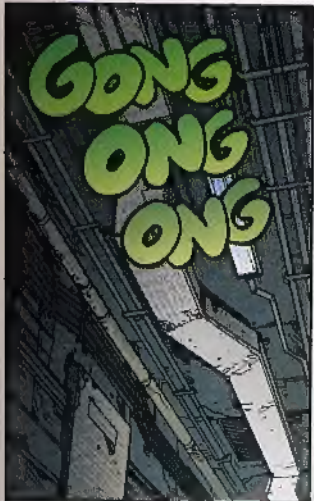
Masaru

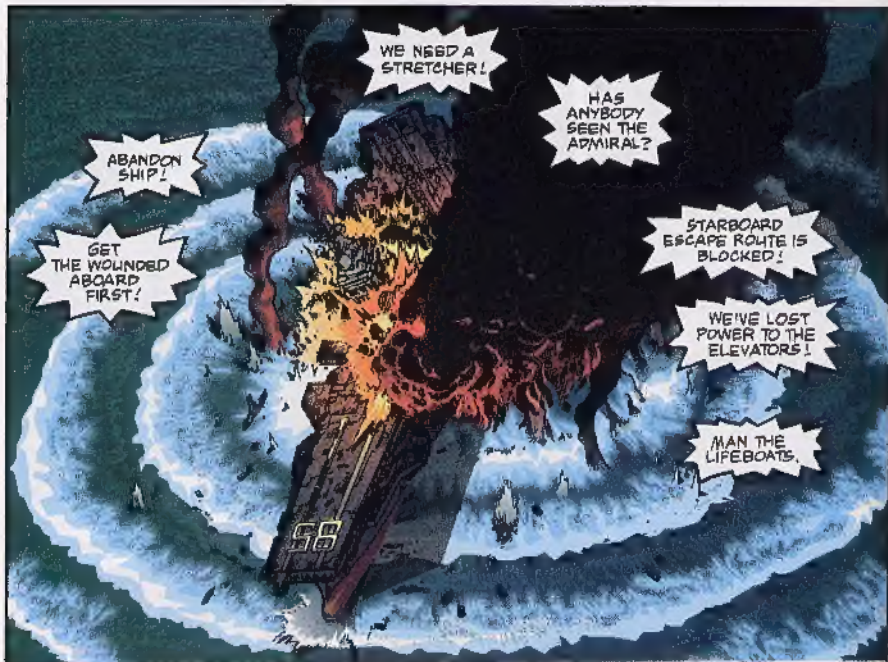


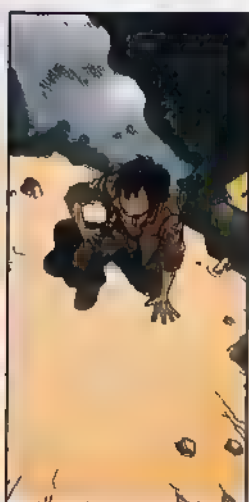
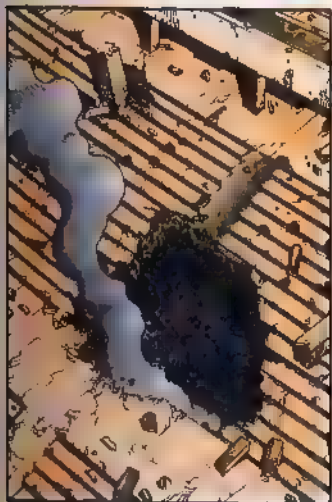
Akira

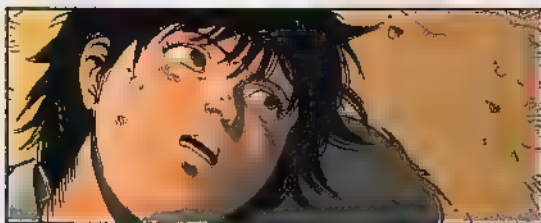
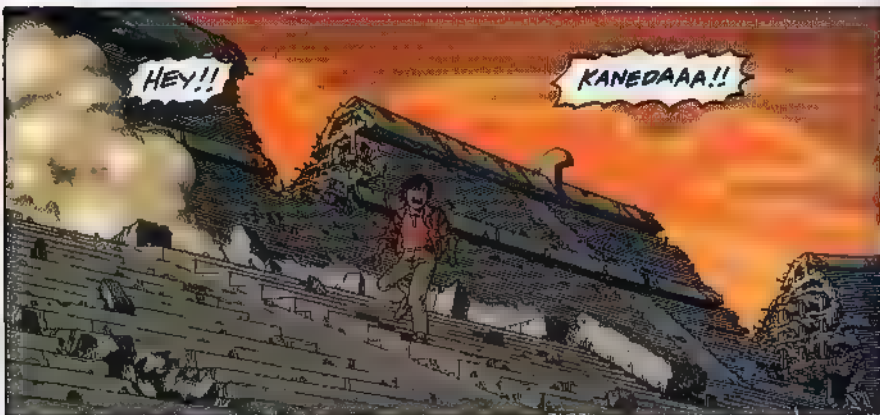














DID YOU--?!

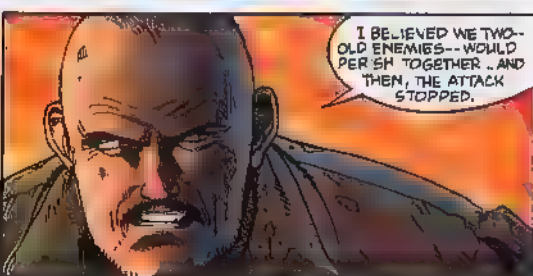


THEY HAVE DECODED THE SEAL ON SOL.



I GAVE YOU WHAT AID I COULD

AS YOU CAN SEE, MY OWN LEGS ARE...

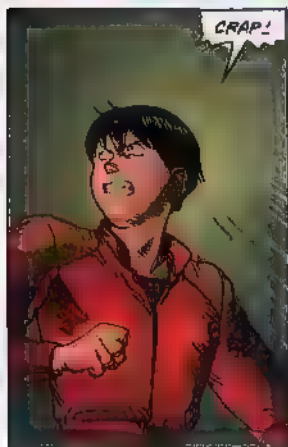
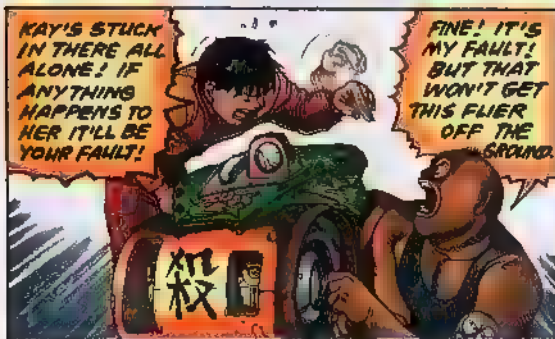
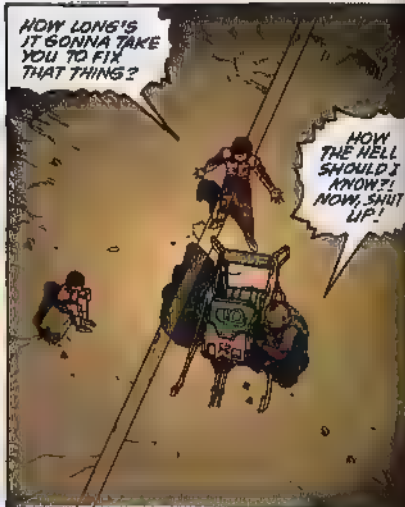


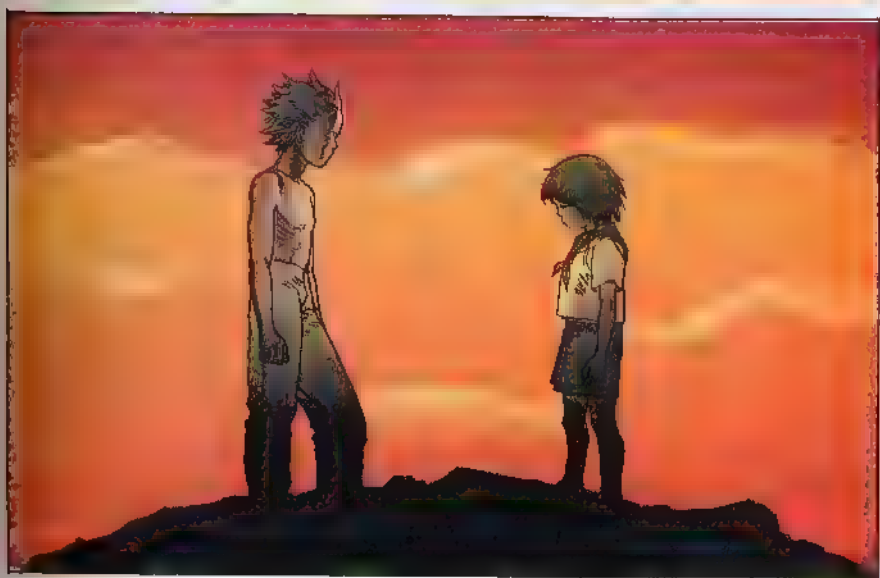
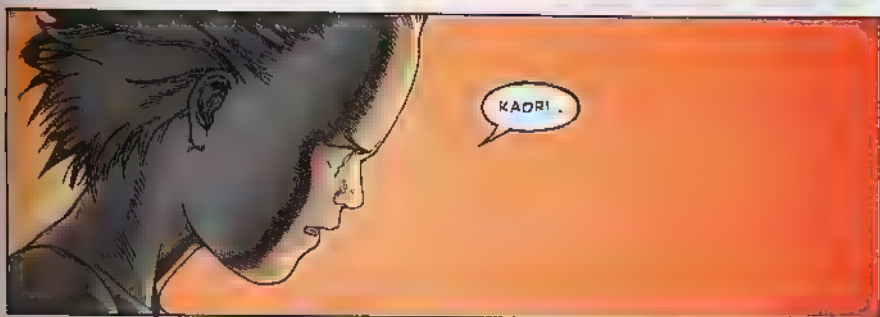
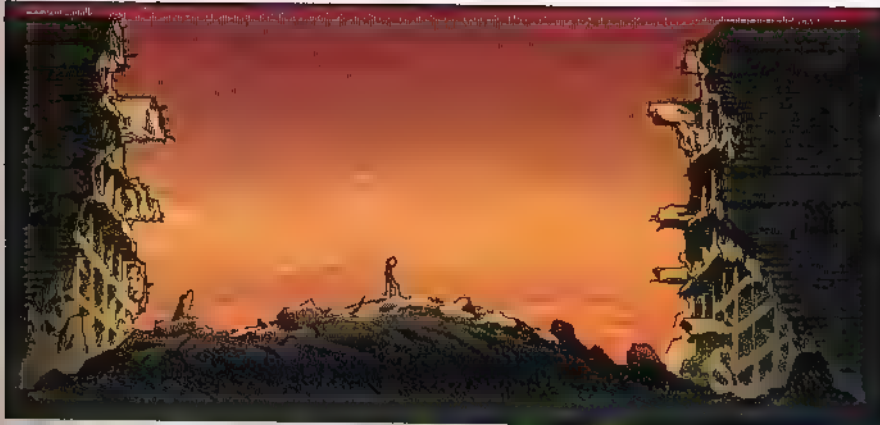
I BELIEVED WE TWO-OLD ENEMIES--WOULD PER SH TOGETHER...AND THEN, THE ATTACK STOPPED.

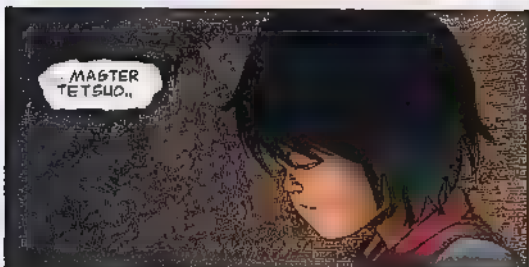


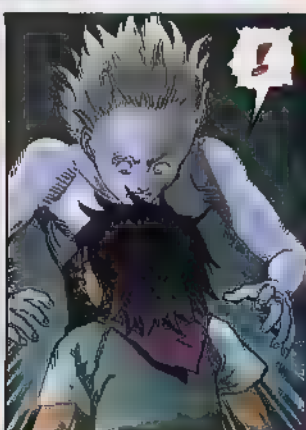
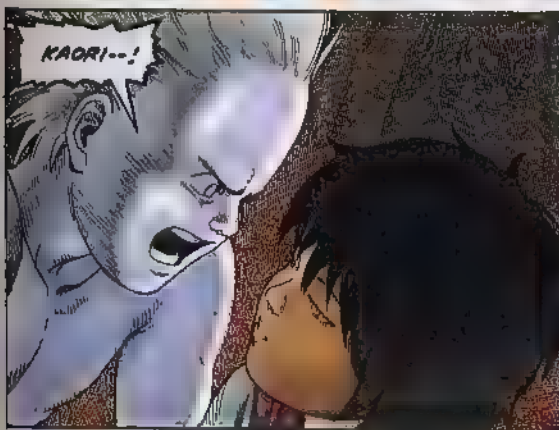
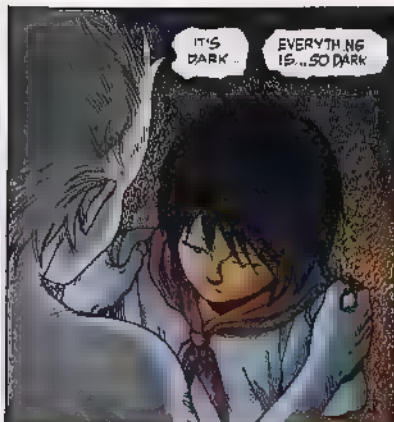
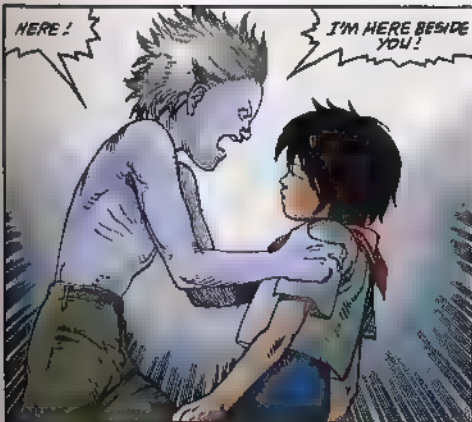
OHH--!

KANEDAAA--!









OH, KAORI...

DAMMIT!

I CAN'T FIX
THE ENGINE
WHEN IT'S TOO
DARK TO
SEE!

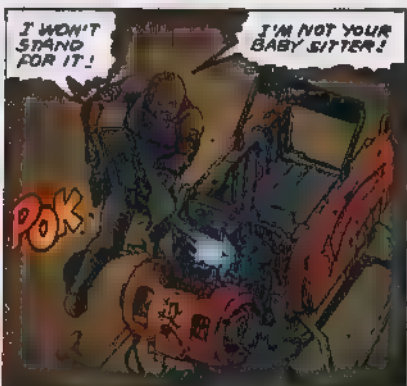
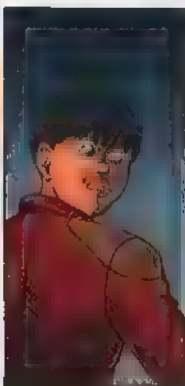
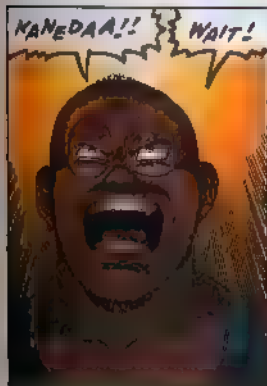
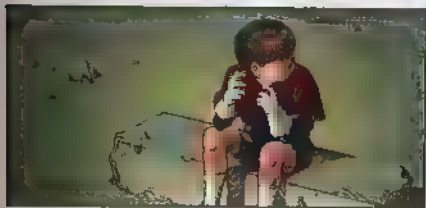
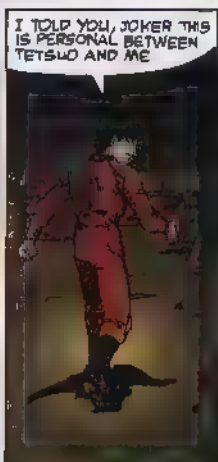
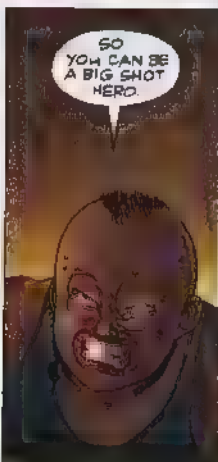
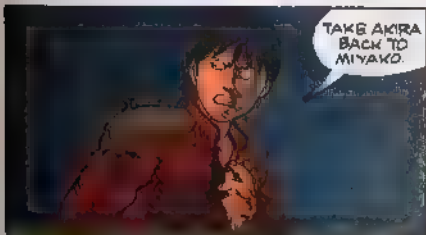
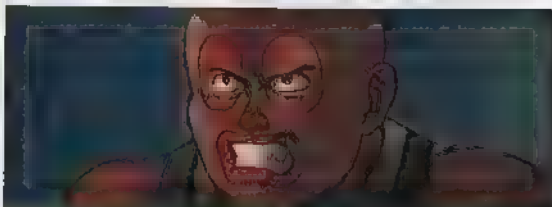
KLANK

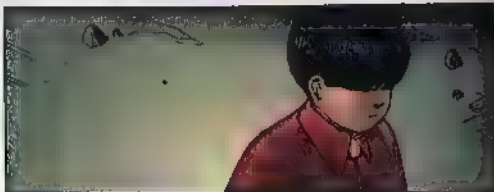
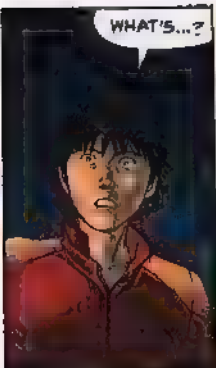
TROUBLE
IS, YOU PUT TOO
MUCH FAITH IN
MACHINES.

I'M TIRED OF
WAITING!

YOU
MEAN...

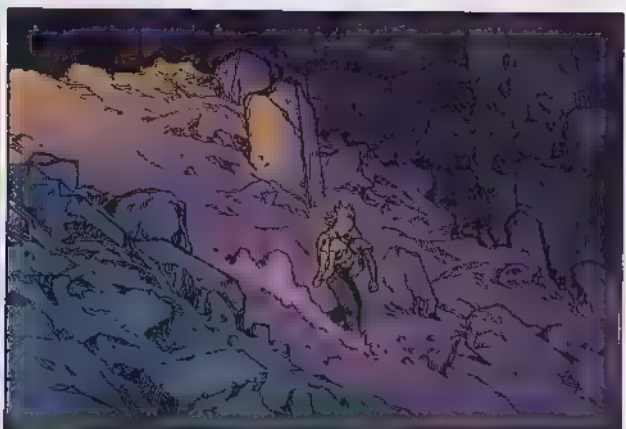
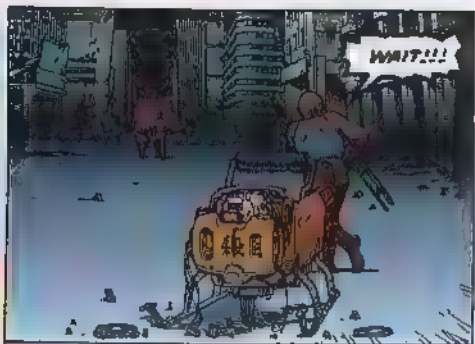
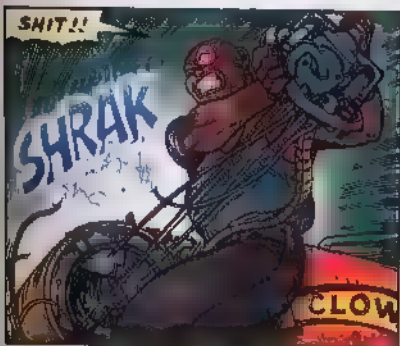
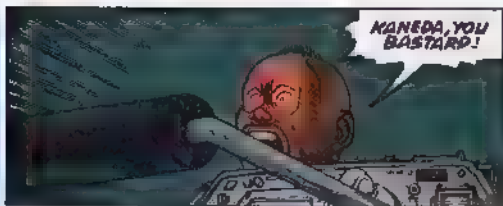
...YOU'RE
GOING
IN UN-
ARMED
?!

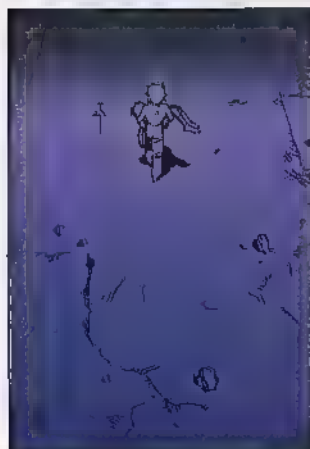
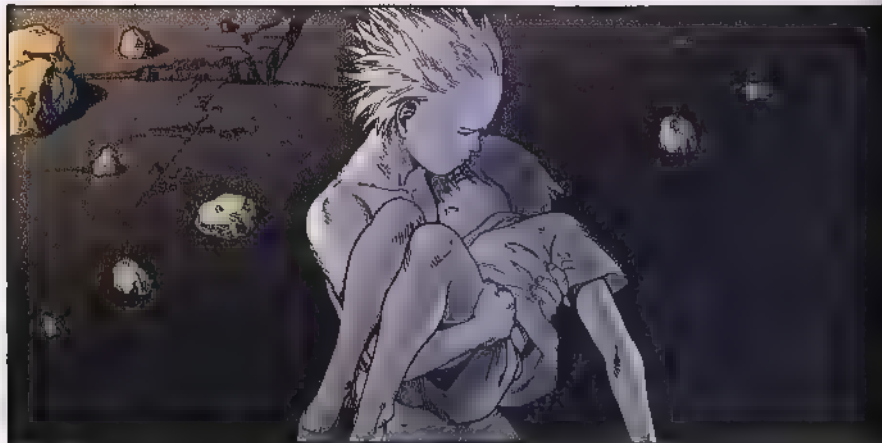


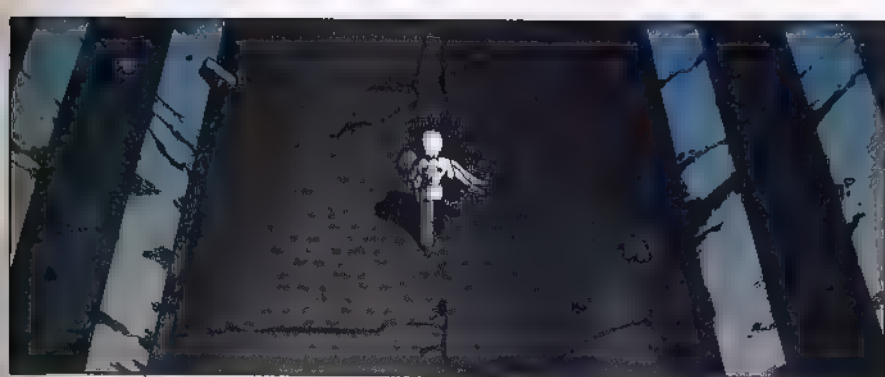


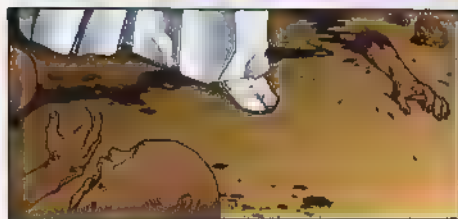
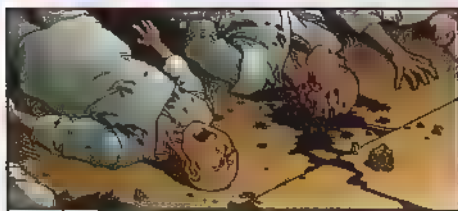
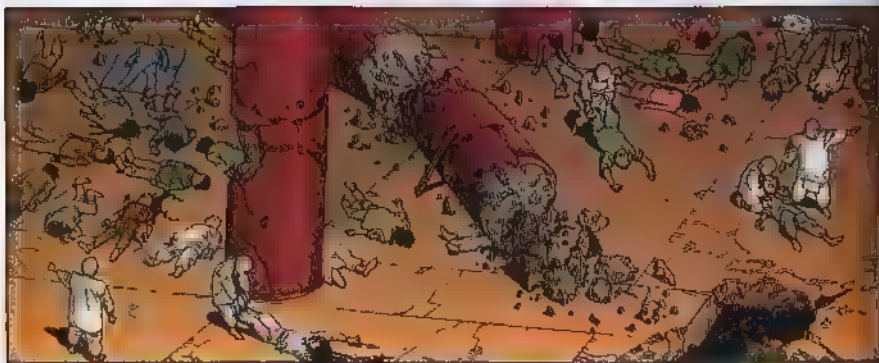
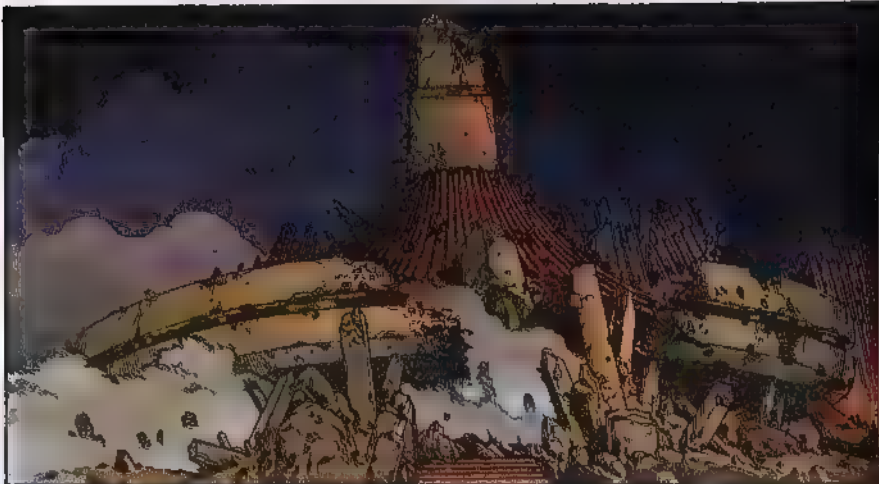
WHERE'D YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?





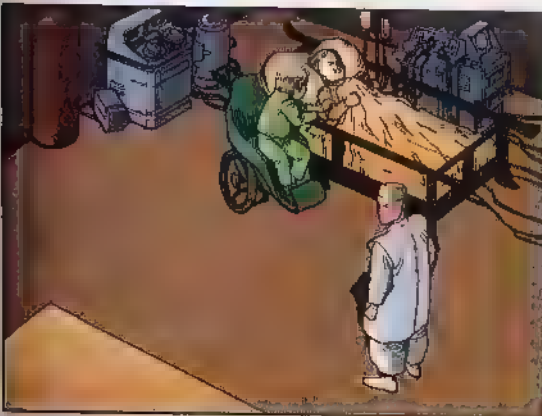




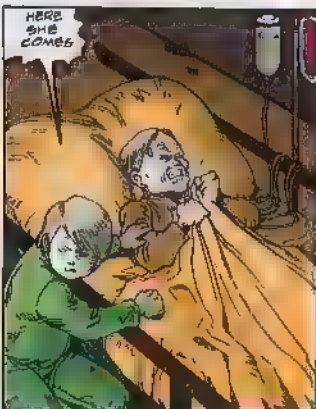


COME QUICKLY!

NEVER MIND
THE DEAD! IT'S THE
SURVIVORS WHO'LL
BENEFIT FROM OUR
AID!



HERE
SHE
COMES



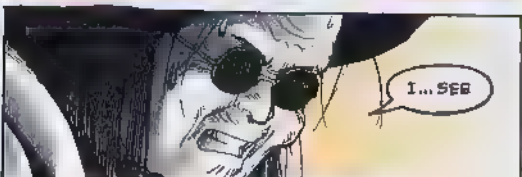
HOW IS
KIYOKO?



I NEED... A
PILL...



I... SEE

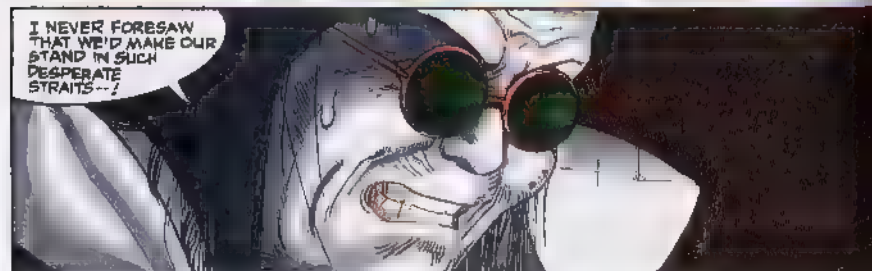
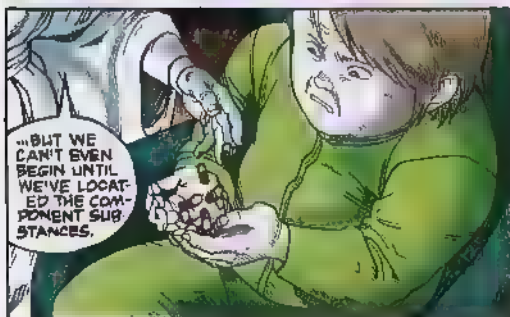


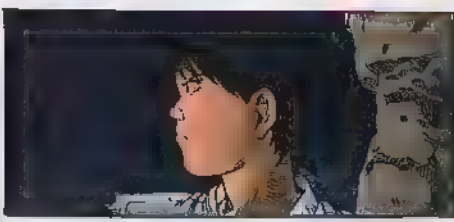
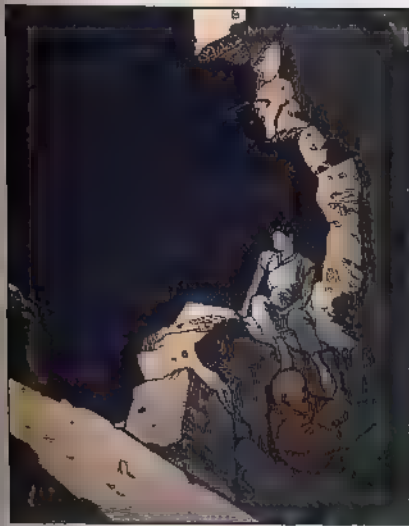
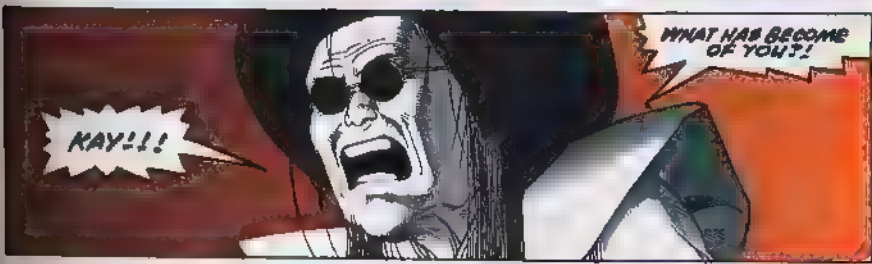
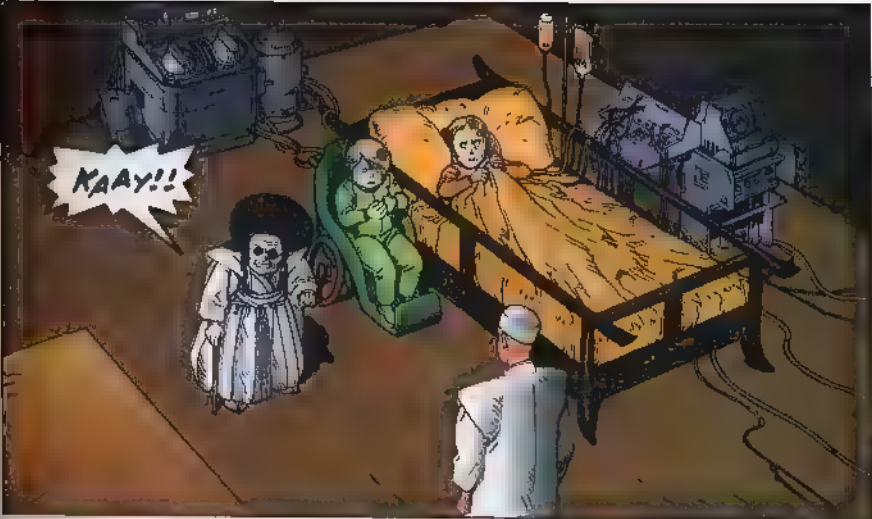
OUR STORES WERE
DESTROYED

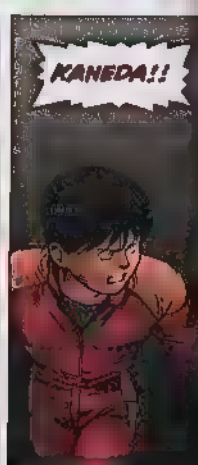
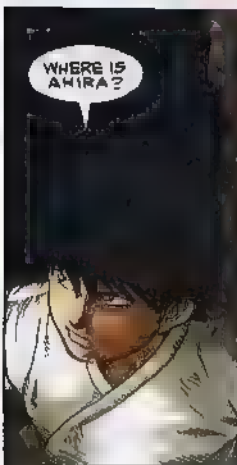
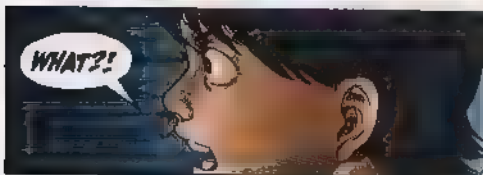
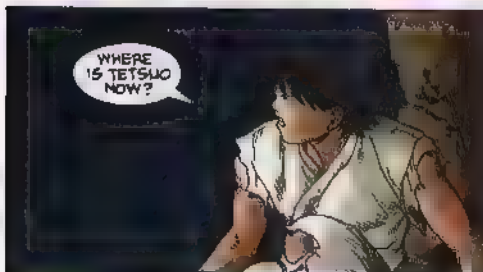
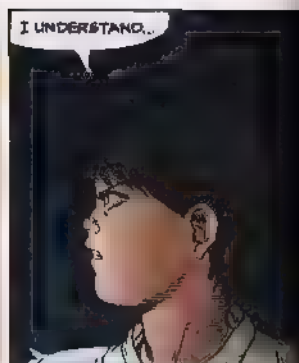
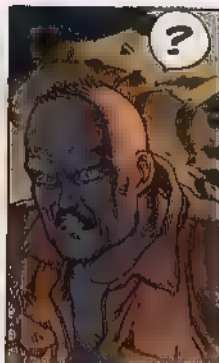
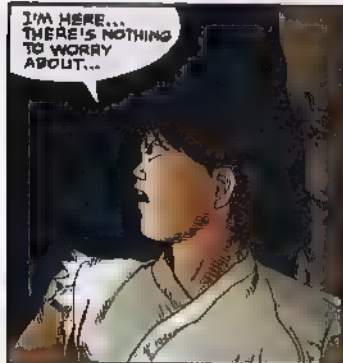


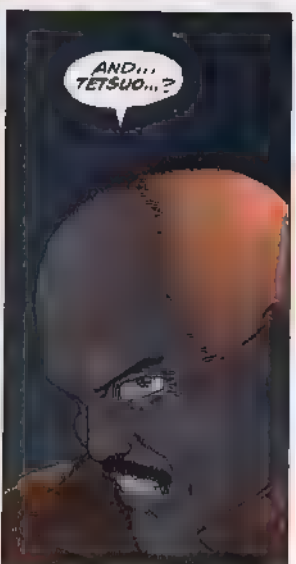
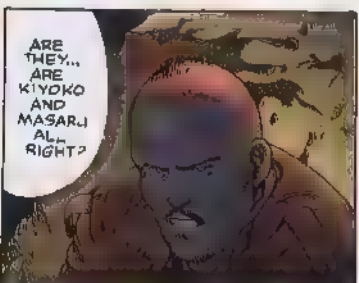
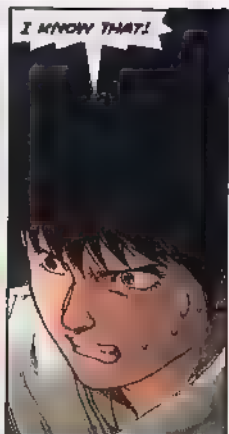
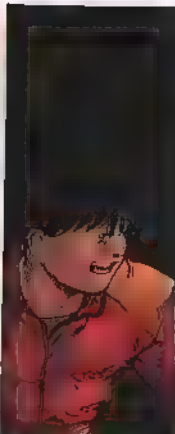
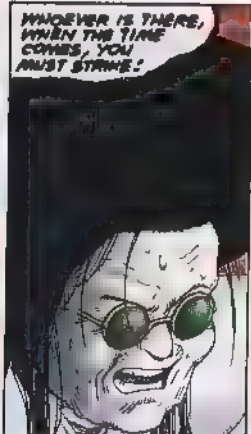
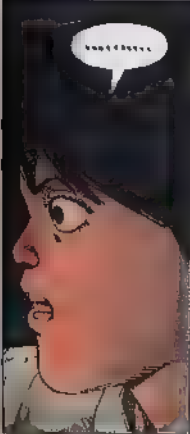
THESE ARE ALL I
HAVE LEFT.





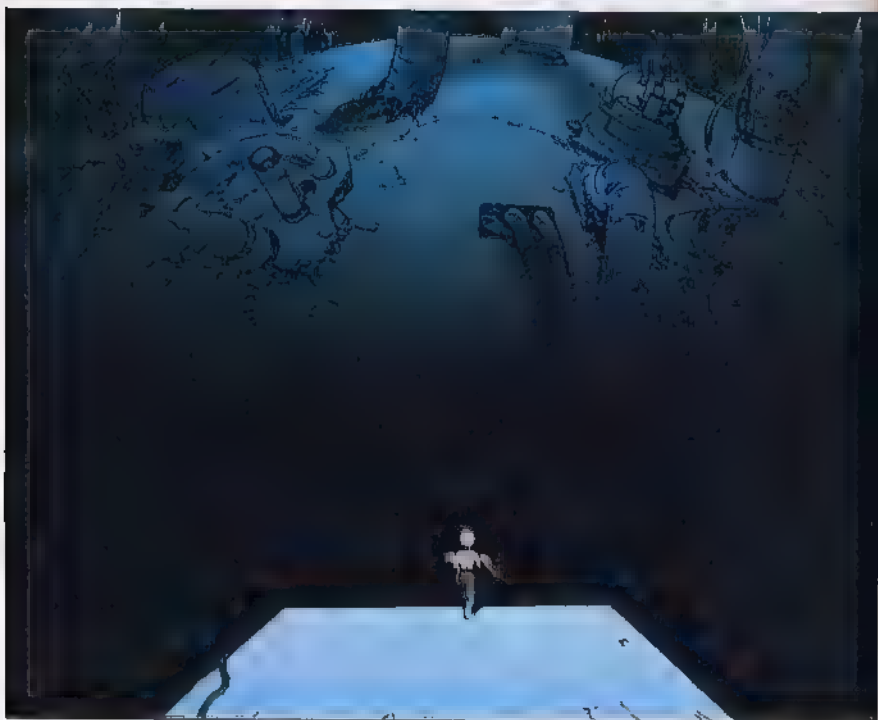






TETSUO...

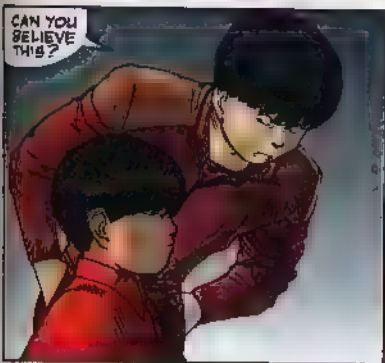
pg. 16





AT
LEAST TELL ME
WHO'S CALLING
YOU!

HOW RE
THEY CALLING? CAN
YOU HEAR RADIO
WAVES?



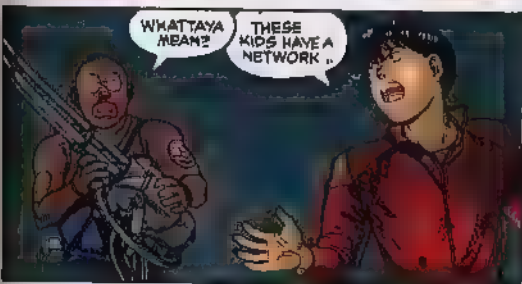
CAN YOU
BELIEVE
THIS?



AFTER ALL WE'VE
BEEN THROUGH, THIS
KID'S SO UN-
SOCIALABLE!



Y'KNOW... MAYBE
THEY'RE ALL
LINKED BY
STRING AND
PAPER CLIPS...



WHATTAYA
MEAN?

THESE
KIDS HAVE A
NETWORK ..



THE WAY THEY'RE
ALL TUNED IN
TO EACH
OTHER.

EACH ONE ALWAYS
SEEMS TO KNOW WHAT
THE OTHERS ARE
DOING.



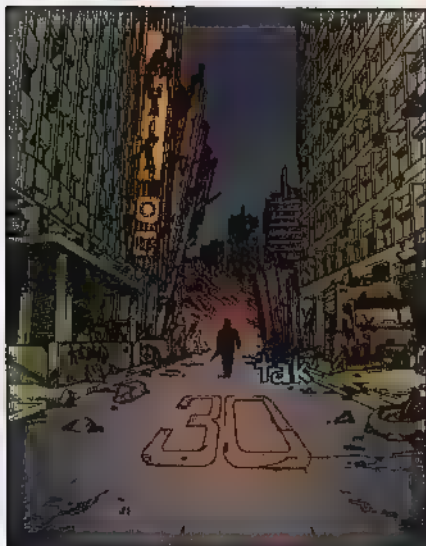
LIKE SOME
KIND OF
MUTANT
CB...

THAT'S A LOW
CLASS, RETRO
WAY OF PUTTING
IT.

HEY, RADIO'S
MORE SCIENTIFIC
THAN A TOY
TELEPHONE

THERE'RE SOME
DISCOVERIES
SCIENCE ISN'T
UP ON

HUNH?



SOMEONE'S
COMING!

CLICK
CLICK



HOLD IT!



HMM?

CHIYOKO!

KANEDA...!?

ARE
YOU
FEELING
BETTER
?

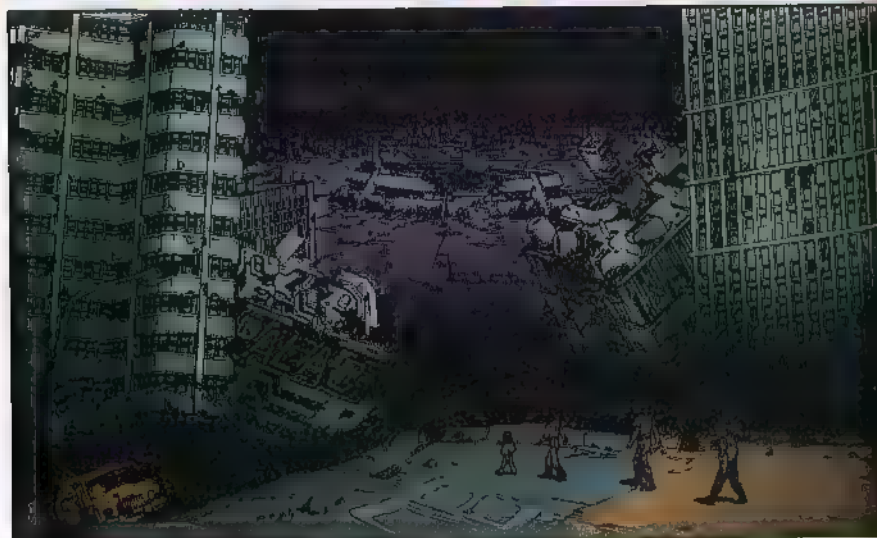
COMPLETE-
LY.

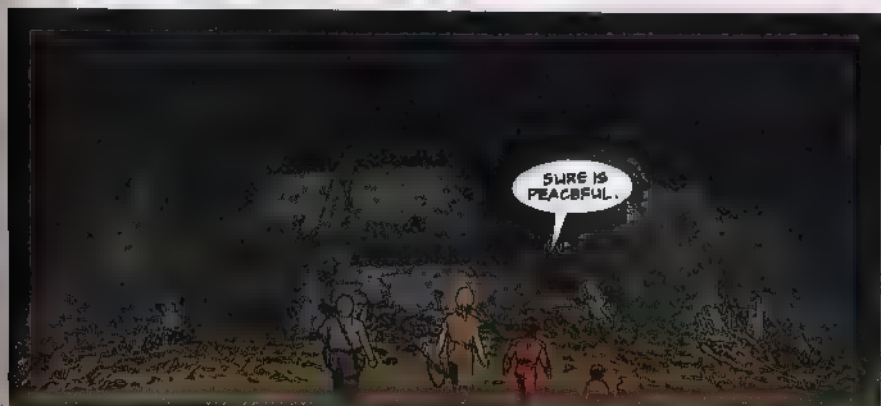
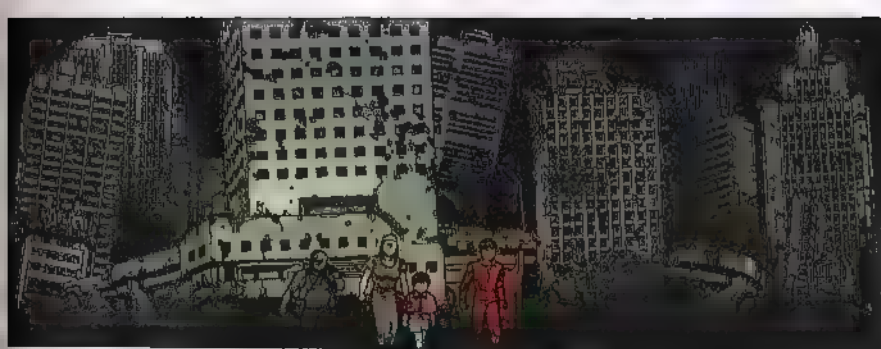
I
CAME
TO
LOOK
AFTER
YOU.

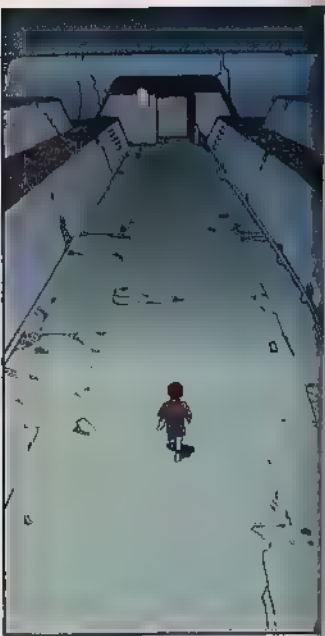
ME...?

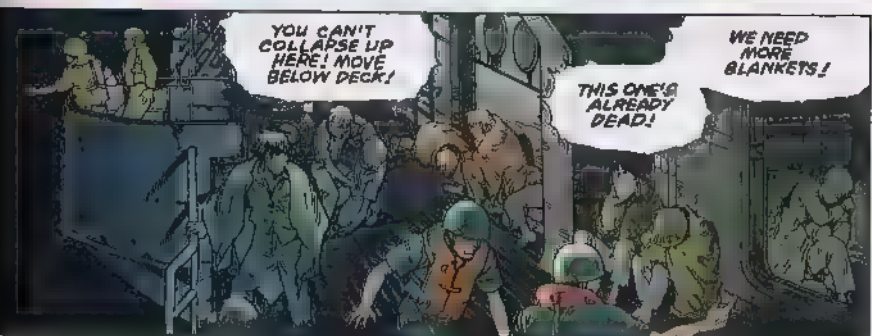
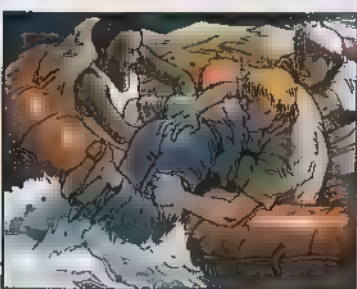
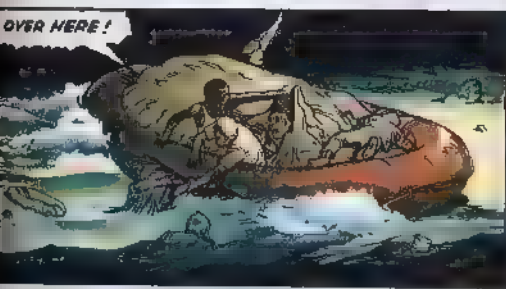
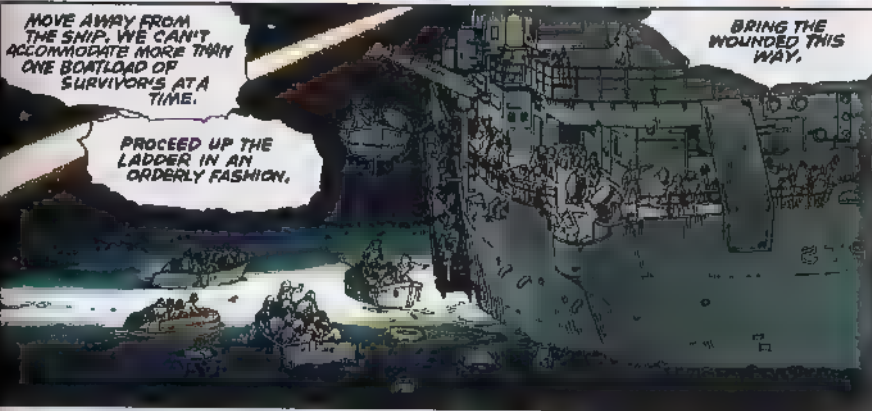
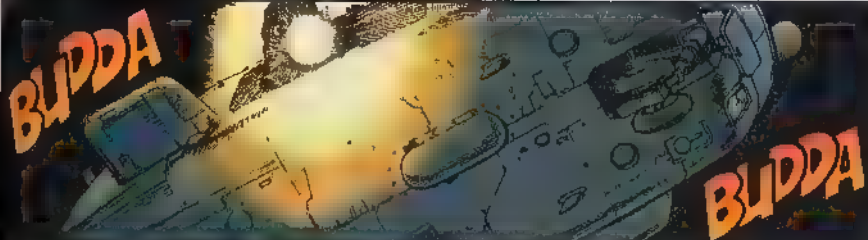
THAT'S STUPID! KAY'S
THE ONE WHO NEEDS
HELP! WE'RE ON
OUR WAY TO SAVE
HER!

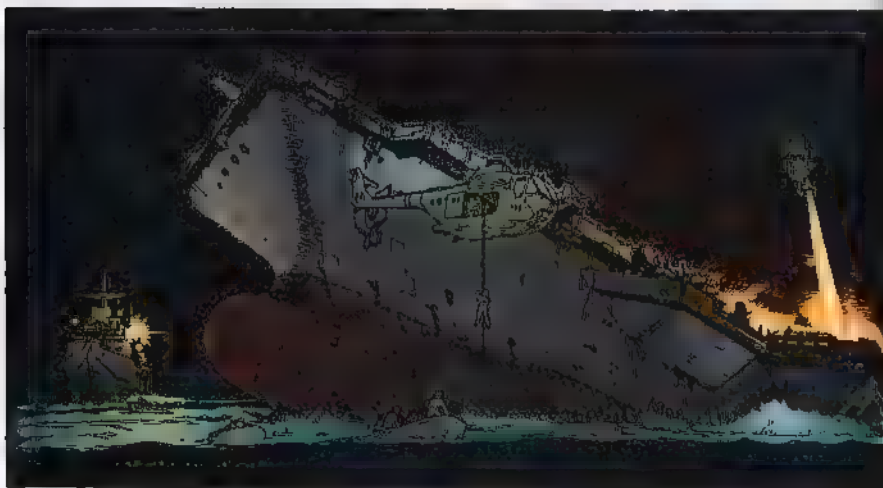
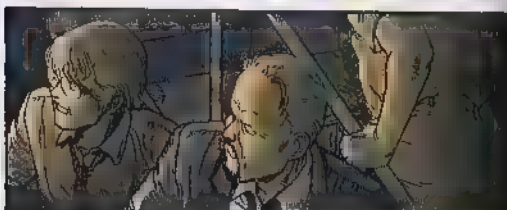
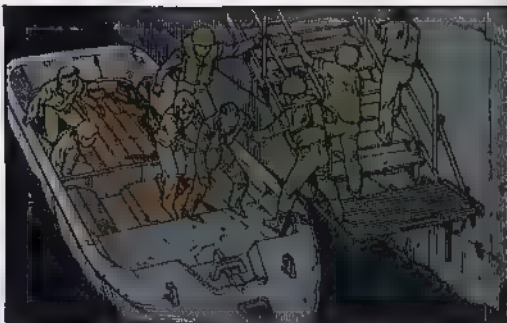
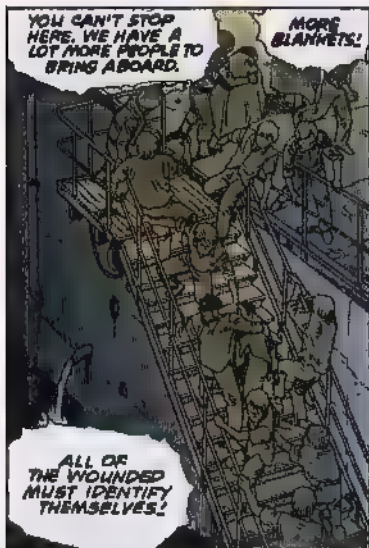
YOU TAKE TOO
MANY CHANCES
KAY WAS
WORRIED.



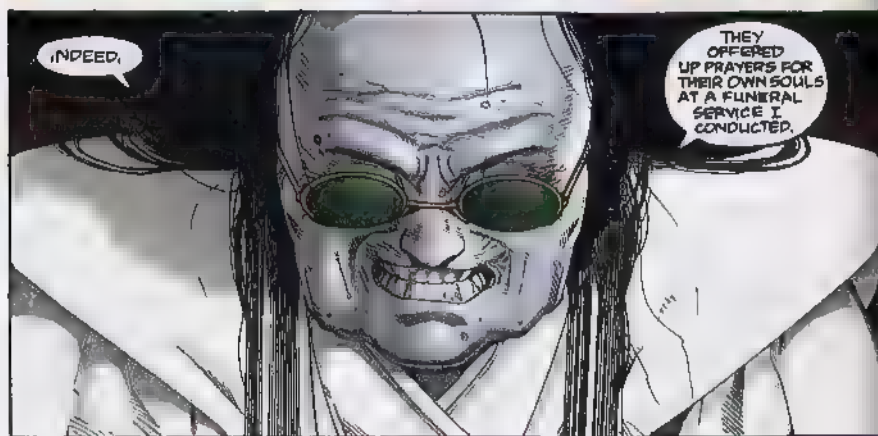
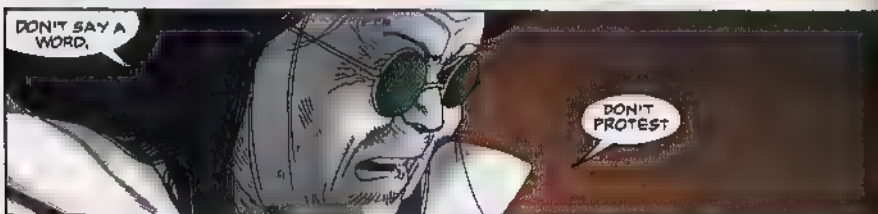


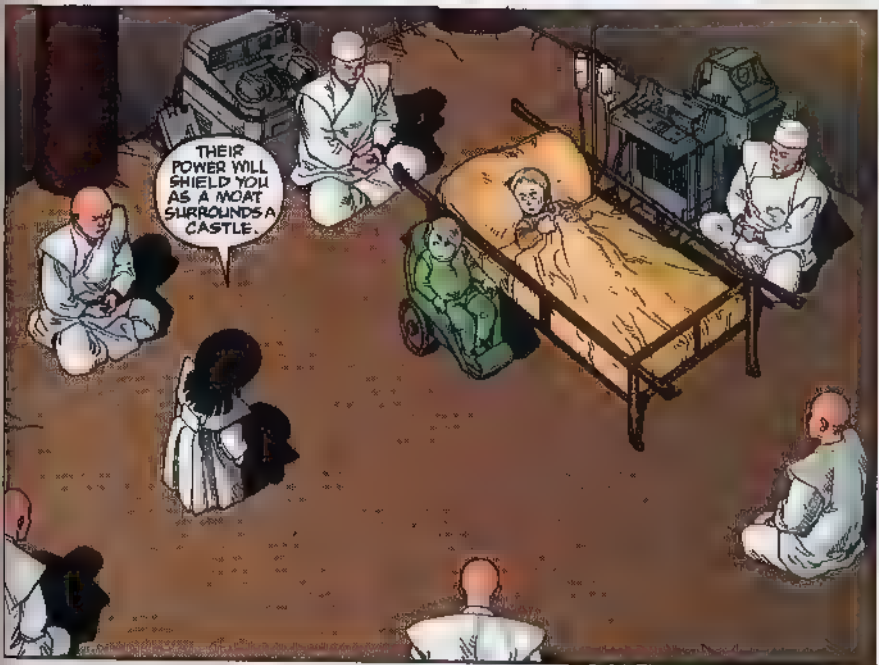


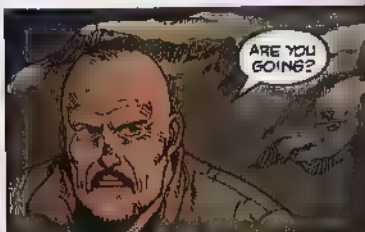
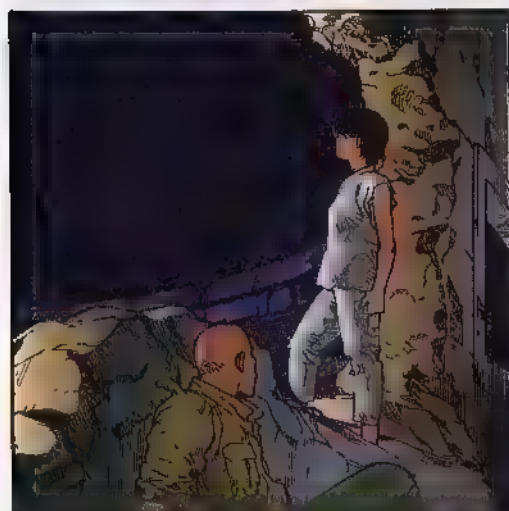
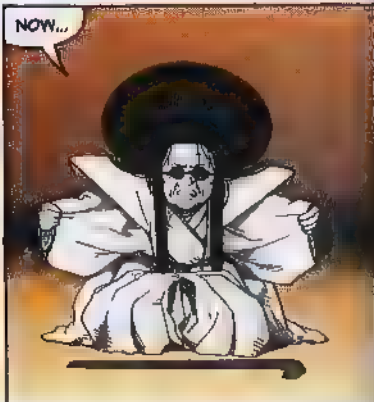


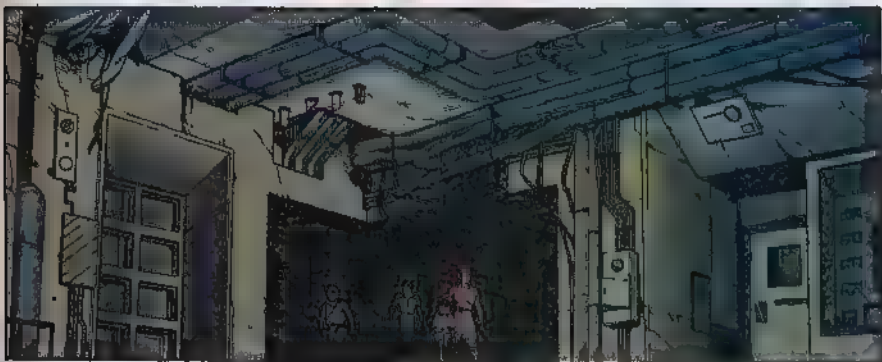


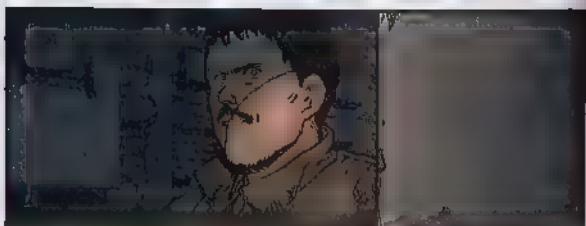
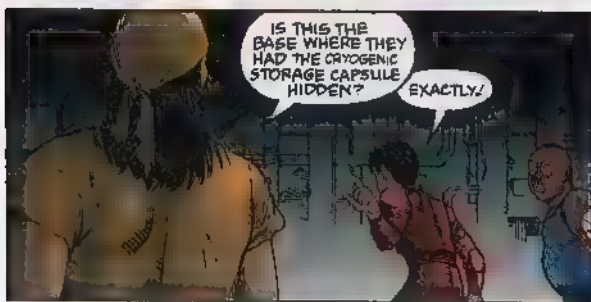
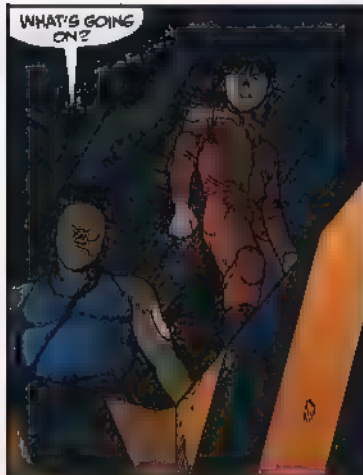


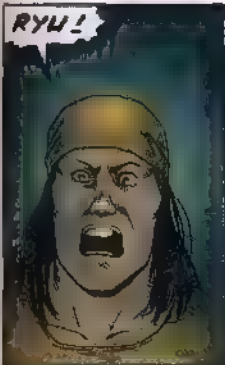















RIGHT.
EXACTLY
WHO WE'RE
AFTER



HE WAS CARRYING
SOMEONE. A
GIRL.




KAY!!




KAY AND I
AREN'T EXACTLY
STRANGERS.
I'D HAVE
NOTICED.

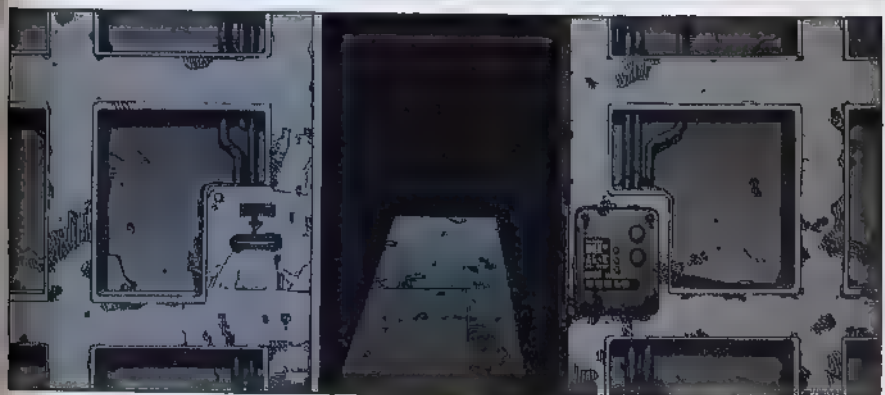
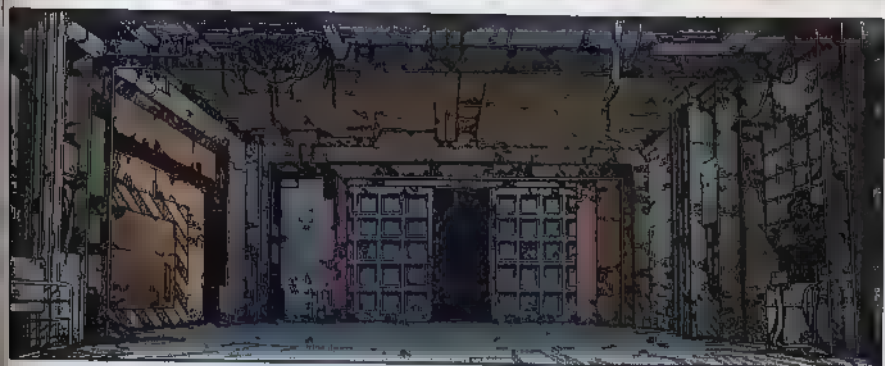
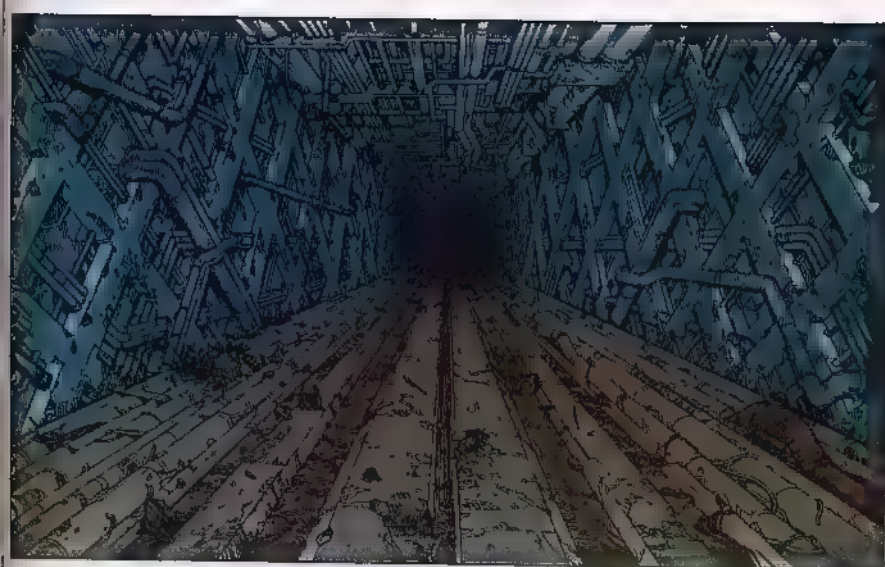
NO. TH'S
LOOKED LIKE
THE DAUGHTER
OF SOME
REFUGEE. SHE
MUST HAVE BEEN
TETSUO'S
GIRLFRIEND..

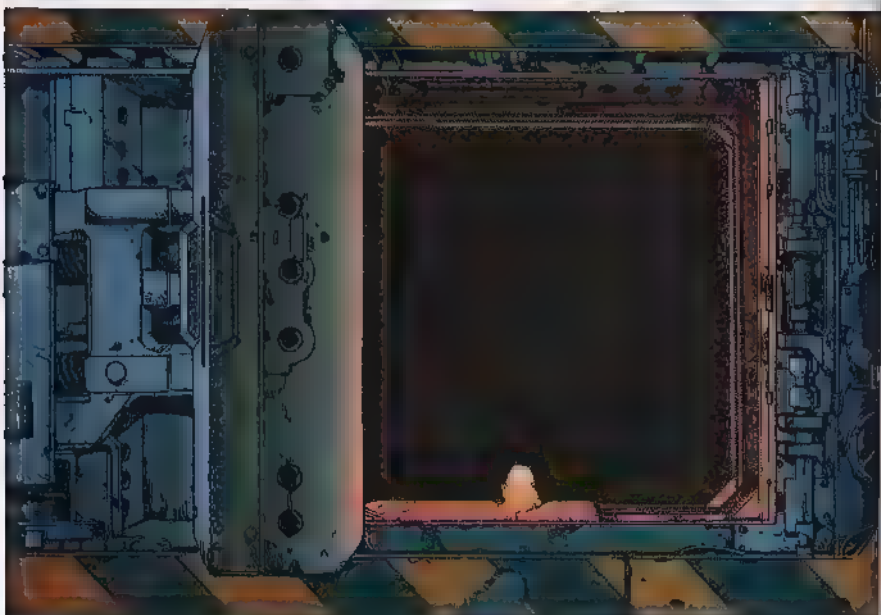
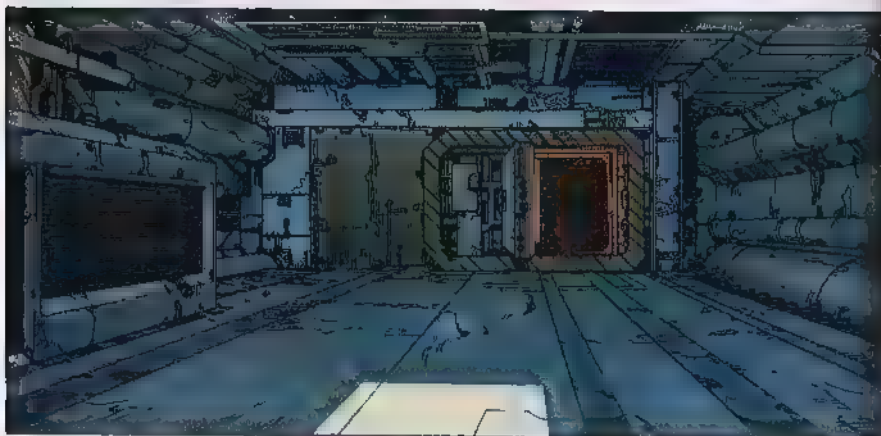
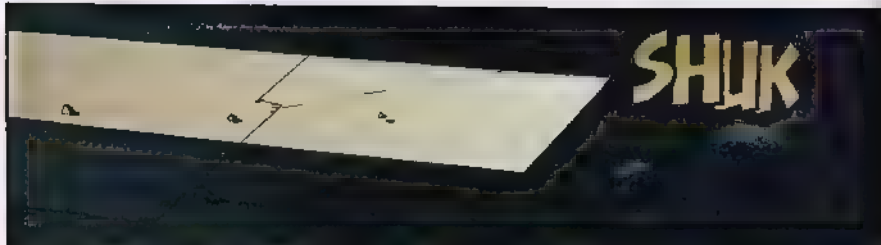


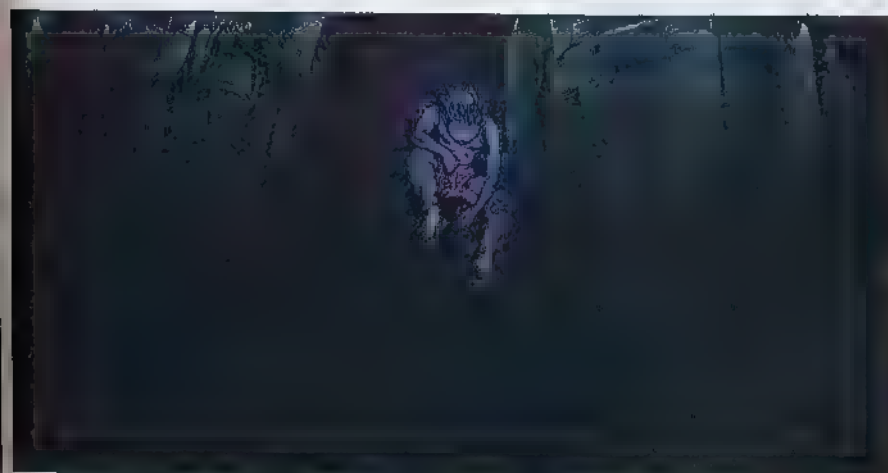
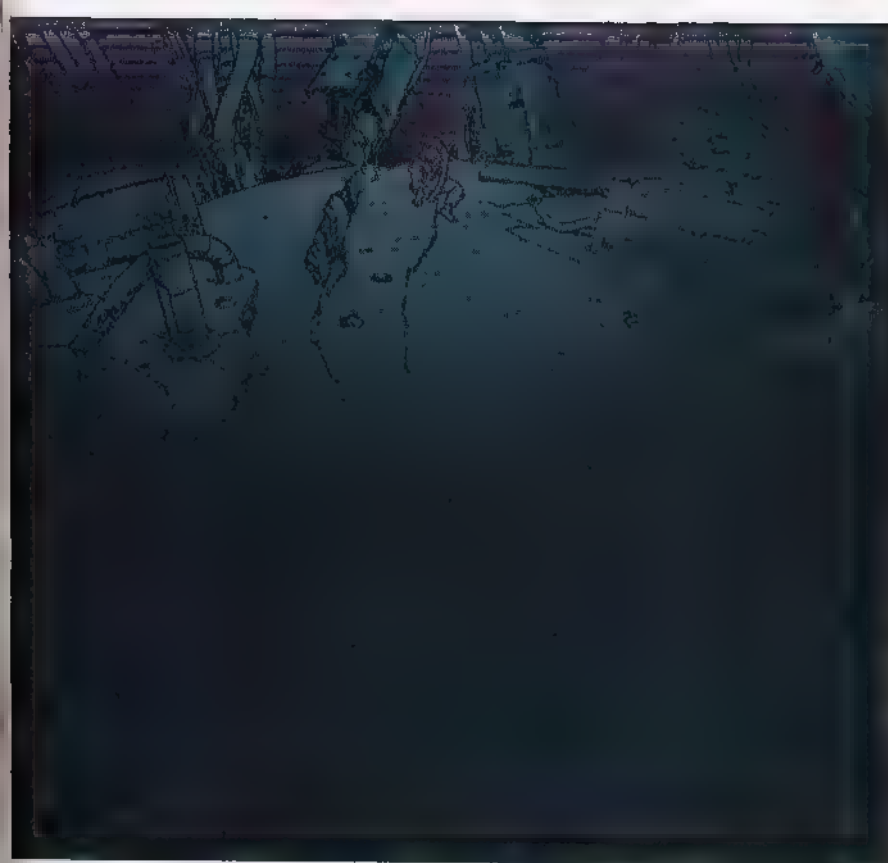
TAKING AKIRA DOWN
THERE MAY BE LIKE JUMPING
INTO A FIRE HOLDING
A LIVE BOMB.

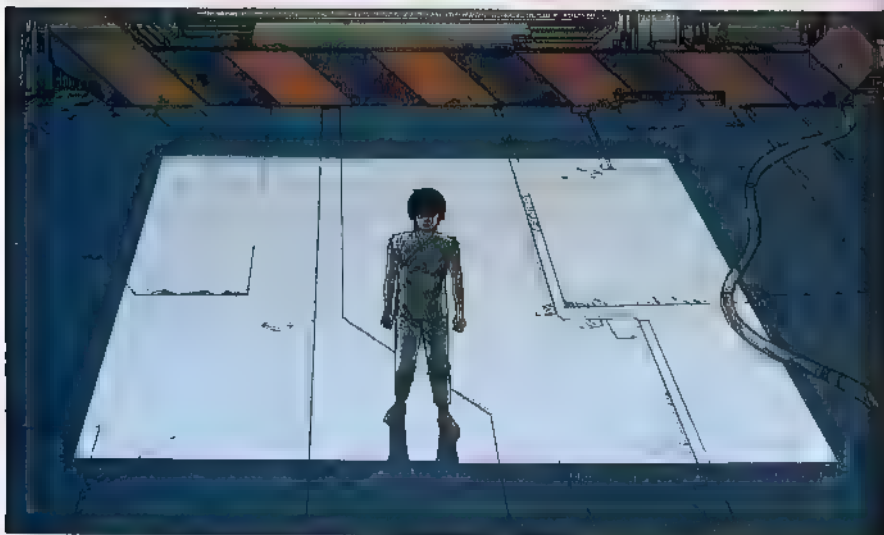
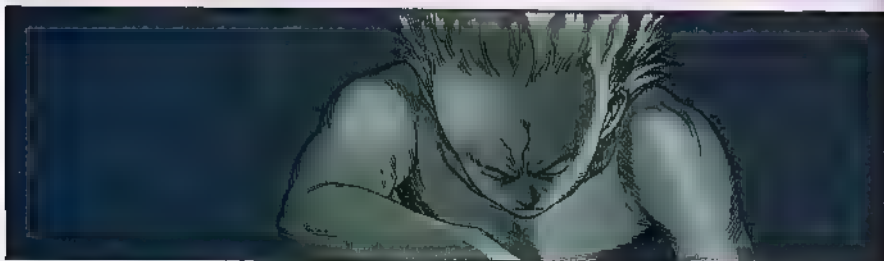
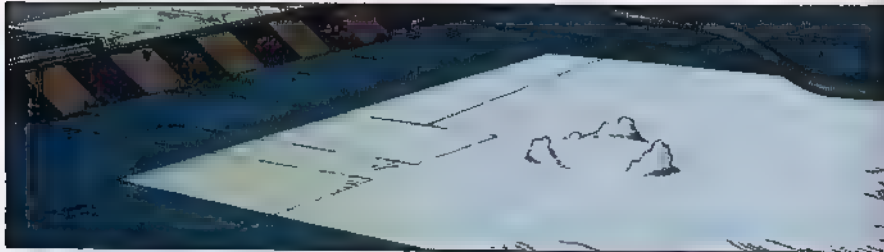


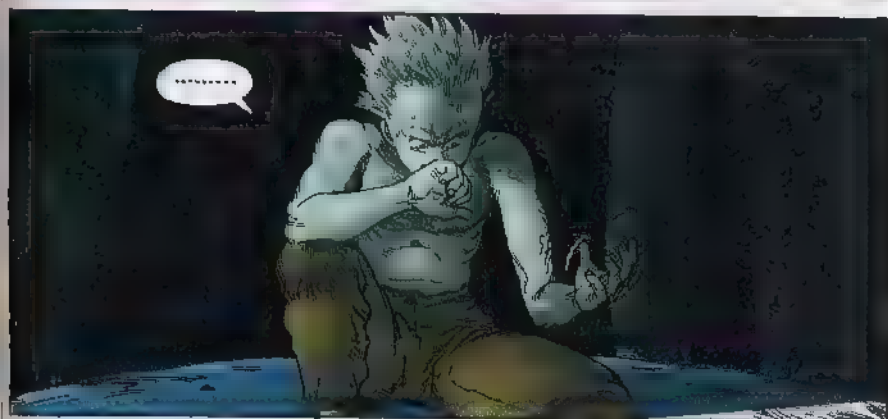
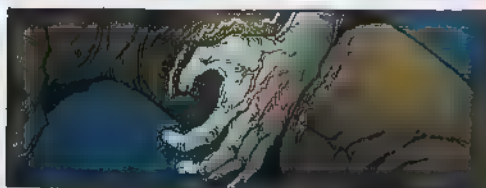
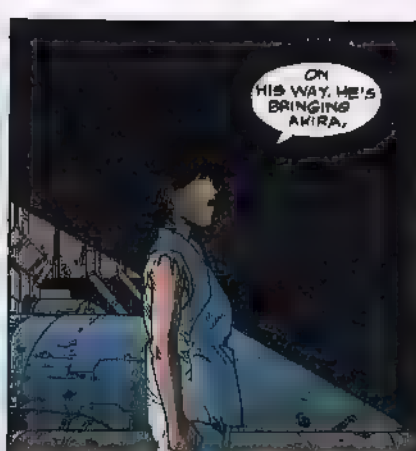
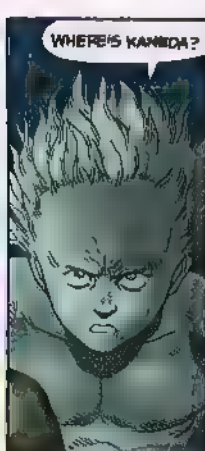
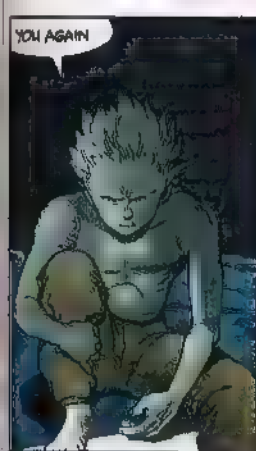
SOMETIMES THE
BEST WAY OF
FIGHTING FIRE IS
WITH A LITTLE HIGH
EXPLOSIVE

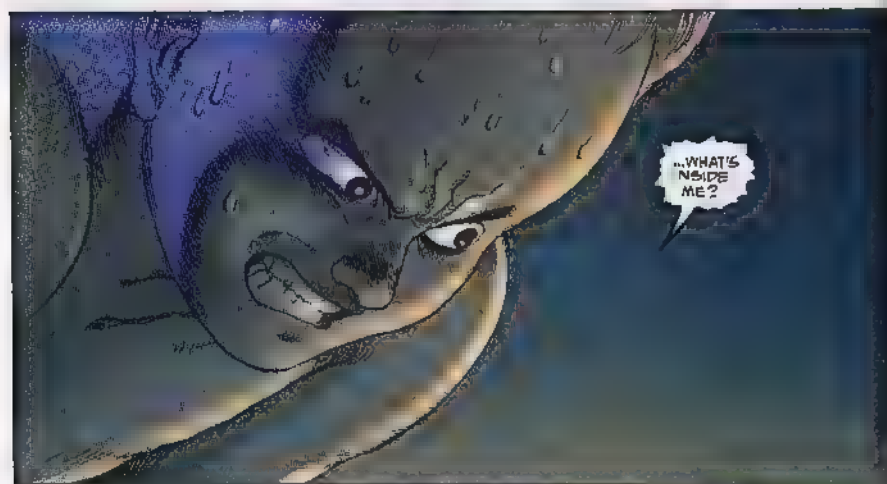
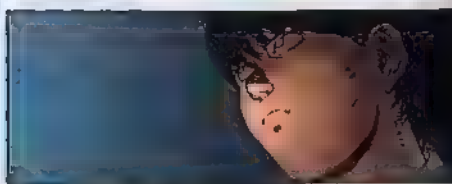
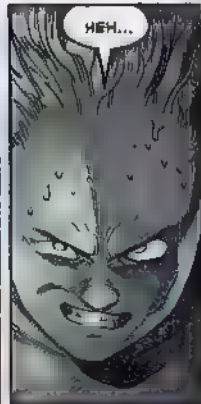








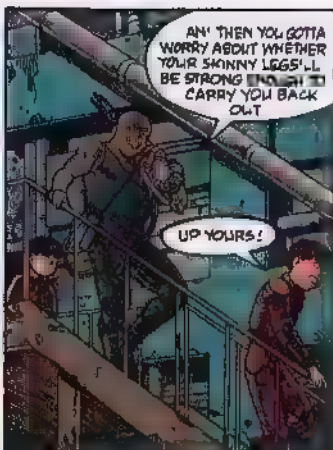






THIS PLACE IS HUGE!

AT THIS RATE WE WON'T GET DOWN THERE TILL TOMORROW!

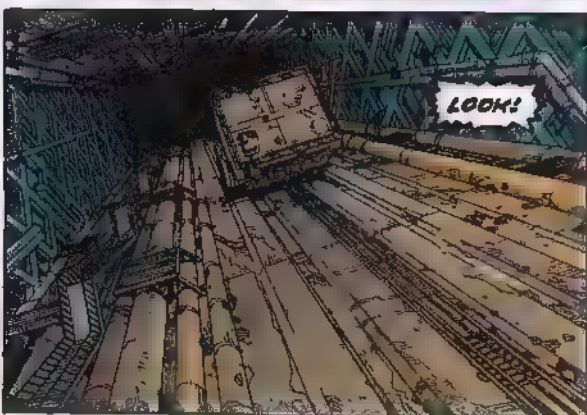


AN! THEN YOU GOTTA WORRY ABOUT WHETHER YOUR SKINNY LEGS'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY YOU BACK OUT

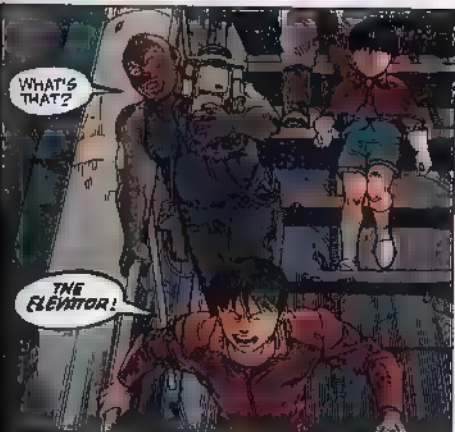
UP YOURS!



HUHH?!

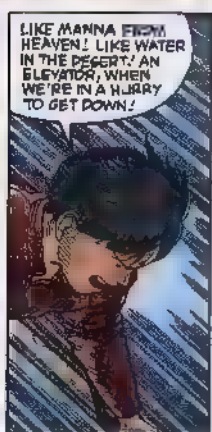
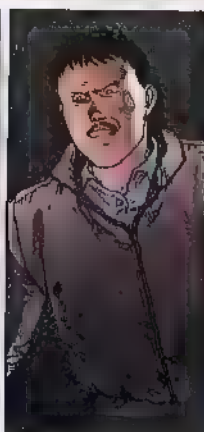


LOOK!

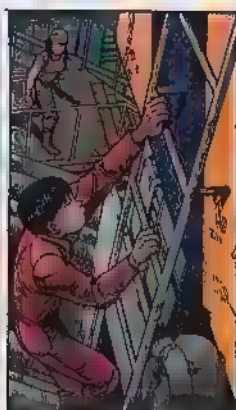
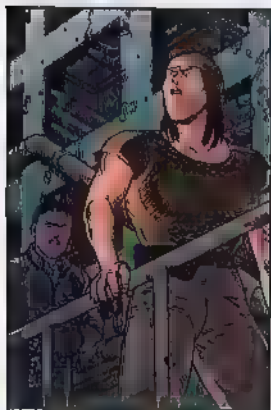
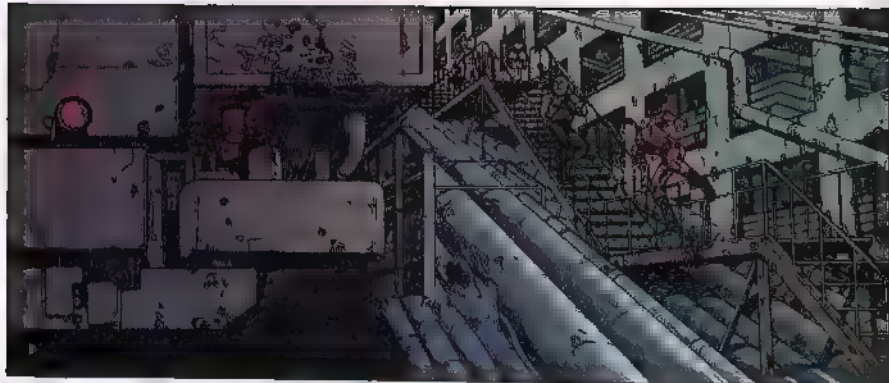


WHAT'S THAT?

THE ELEVATOR!



LIKE MANNA FROM HEAVEN! LIKE WATER IN THE DESERT! AN ELEVATOR, WHEN WE'RE IN A HURRY TO GET DOWN!



HAHAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHAHA...



YOU
CRACK ME
UP!



...TELLING
ME IT'S UP
TO ME...



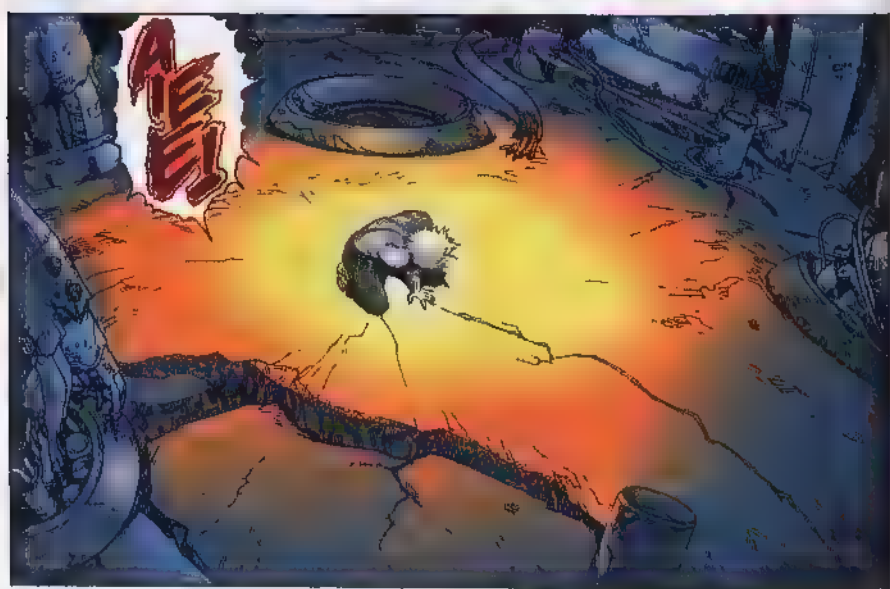
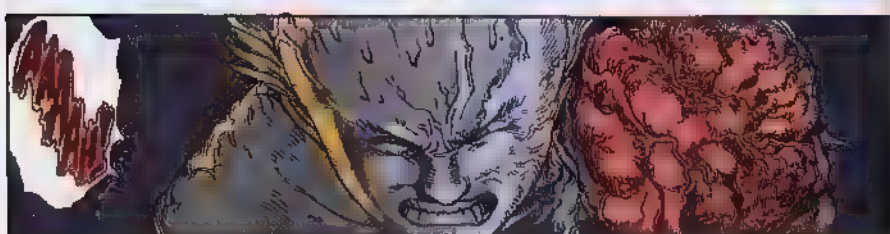
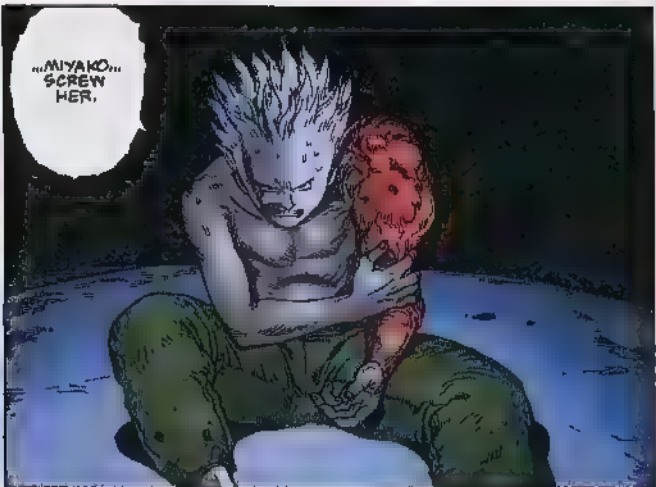
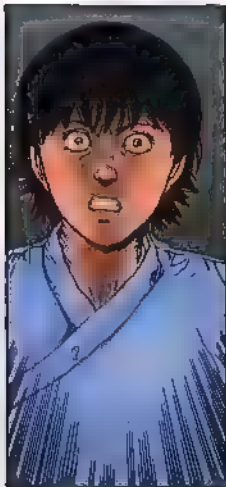
..CONTROL
MYSELF...
CONTROL
AKIRA..

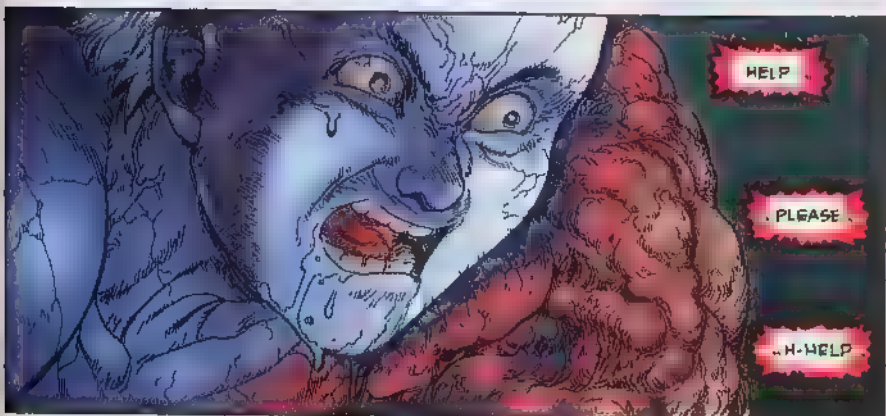
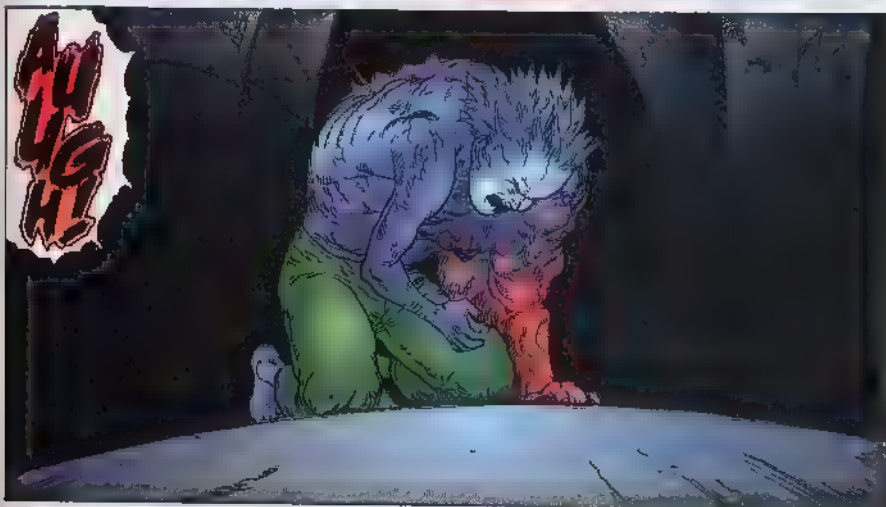
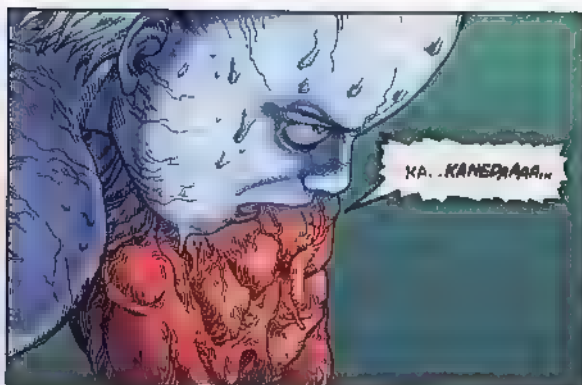


THAT BITCH
SCAMMED
ME! AN' I
FELL FOR
IT!

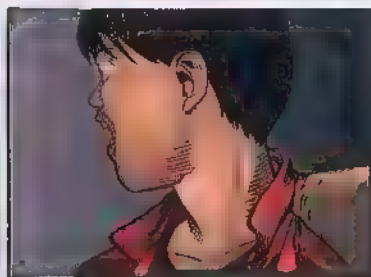
AND NOW YOU'VE
COME TO REAP
WHAT SHE
SOWED!

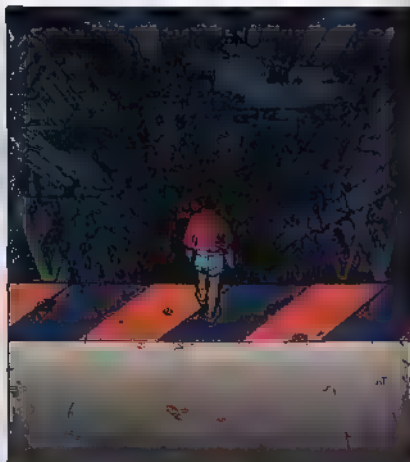


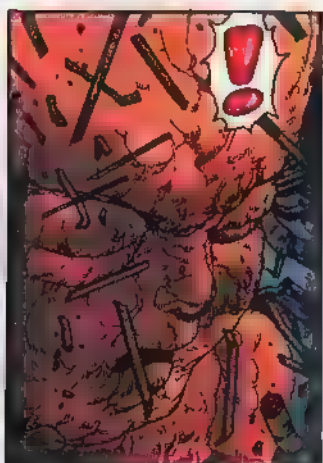
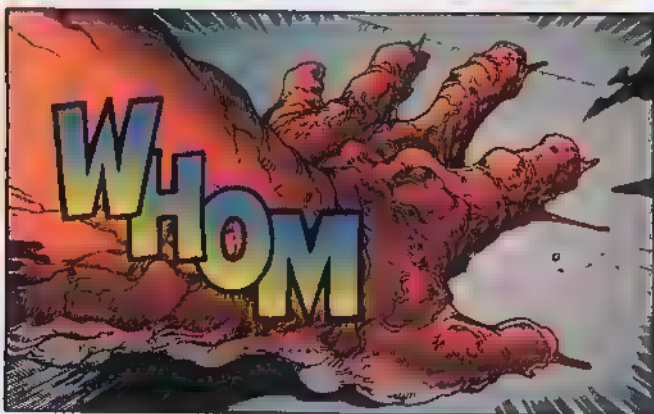


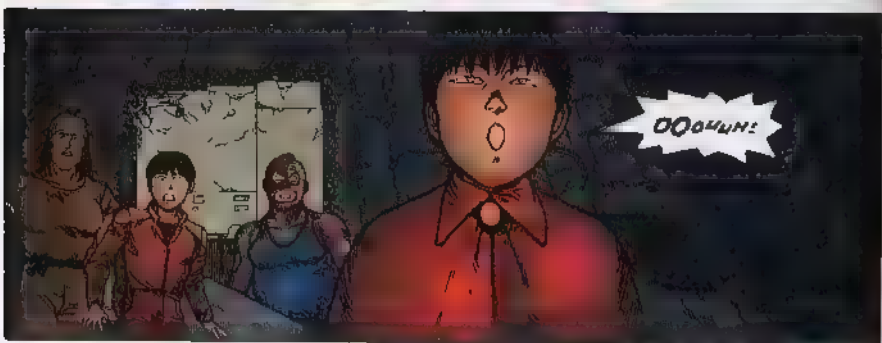
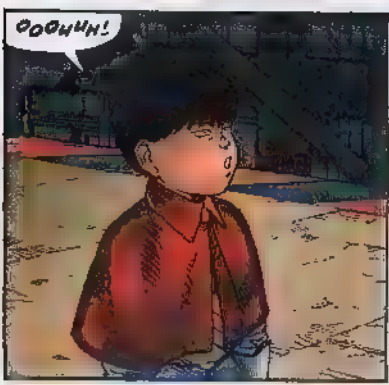


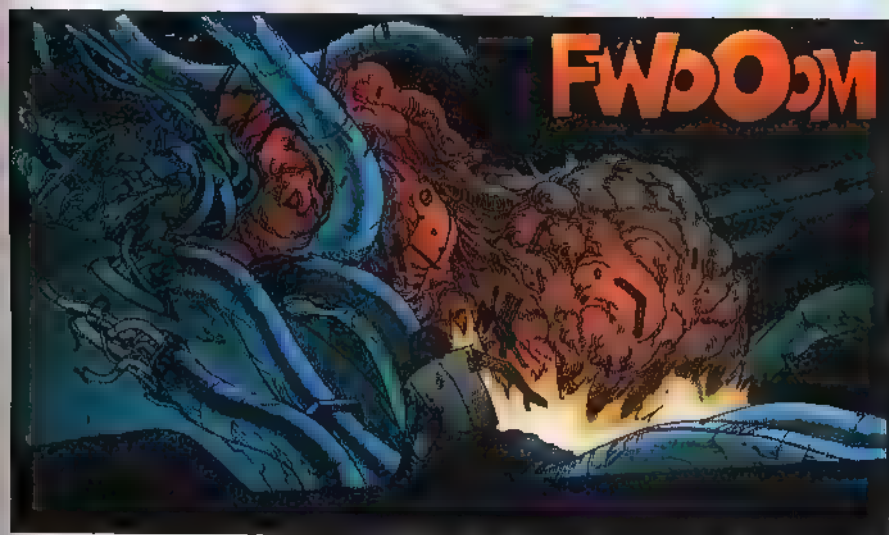


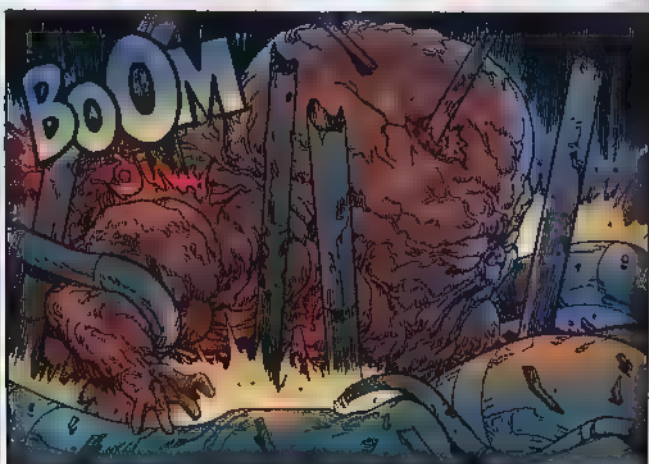
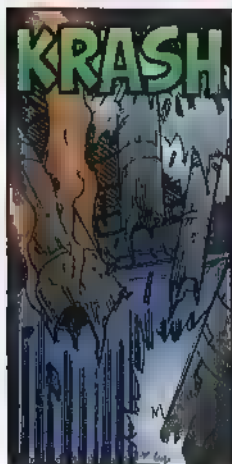
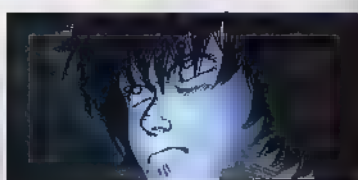
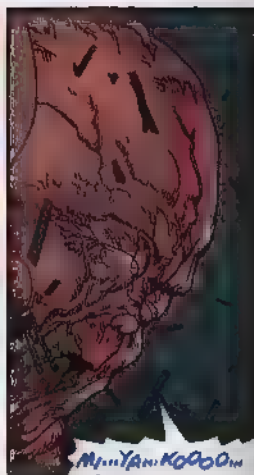
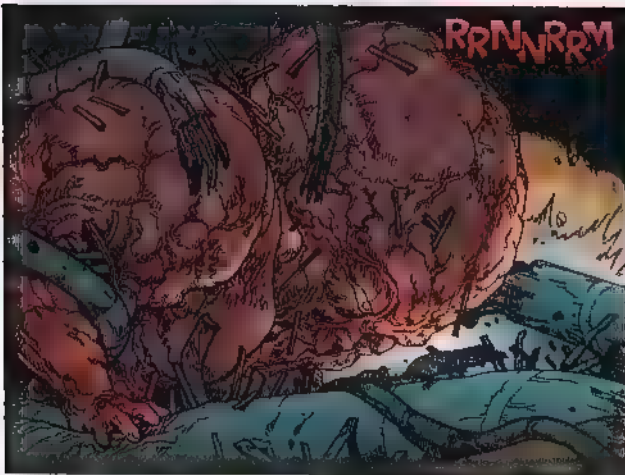


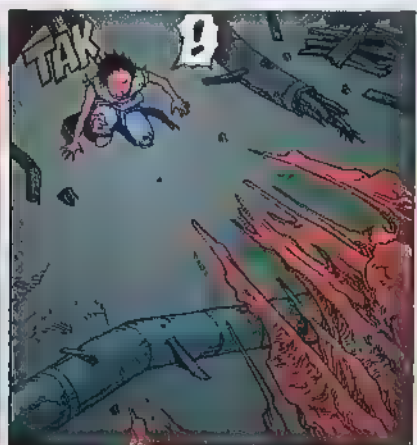
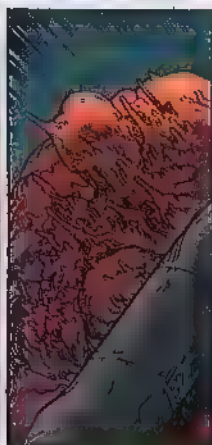
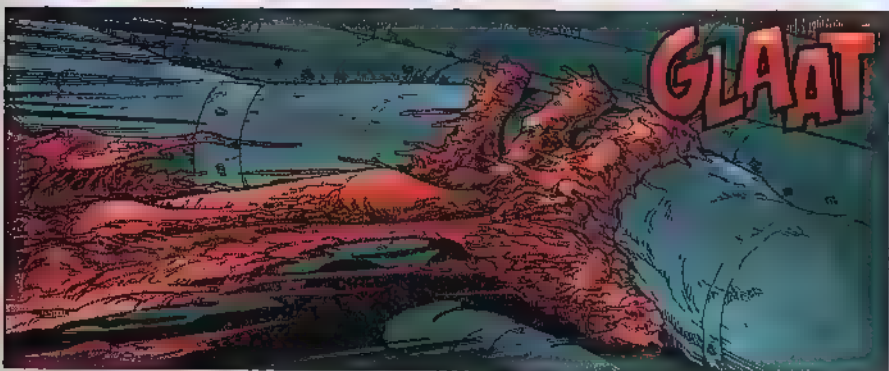
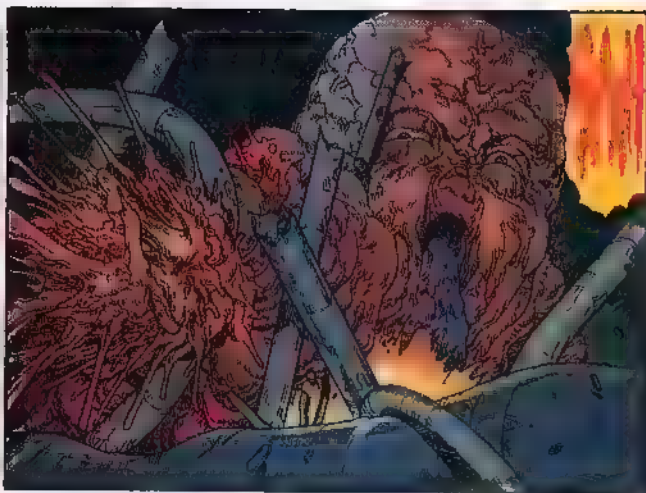
















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MARIE JAVINS
editor

CARL POTTS
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The wagons have drawn into circles on the rubble strewn plain of Neo-Tokyo, those still surviving forging lines of defense to hold off the furies that rail against them all. Aboard an American warship, fighting men trade ordnance for escape in a desperate attempt to stay alive. Within the weakening ramparts of her temple, Lady Miyako shelters young children holding the secrets of powers older than time. Beneath the city's labyrinthine infrastructure, the berserker named Tetsuo struggles to hold himself together against attacks that tear at his body and soul.

A most terrible siege has set in across this metropolis-turned-battlefield. . .and the walls have started to crumble.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION



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I love um

I buy um

I preserve um